BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.112 BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 24 | PRICE ₹5**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Union Berlin's **Marie-Louise Eta becomes first female head coach to win a game in European soccer's top five men's leagues** as she oversaw a 3-1 victory against Mainz in the German Bundesliga

Poland **ex-minister Zbigniew Ziobro flees from Hungary to US after receiving asylum from Viktor Orbán's govt**, while facing criminal charges in Poland that could result in a prison sentence of up to 25 years if convicted

A **painting stolen by Nazis during World War II from a Jewish collector** was found in the home of descendants of notorious Dutch SS collaborator Hendrik Seyffardt. An art detective **identified it as Portrait of a Young Girl**

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledges **to prove "doubters", in his own party and among electorate as a whole, wrong** as he tries to fight off demands to step down after devastating local election results for his Labour Party

Hayabusa bike at 160kmph crashes into car, 5 dead

A Suzuki Hayabusa speeding at 160kmph, allegedly during a street race, crashed into a car on Hyderabad's Mahabubnagar bypass road early Monday, killing five people. Both bike riders died on the spot while three persons seated in the rear of the car succumbed to injuries in hospital. The superbike ploughed into the rear left door of the car as it was taking a right turn. P 13

High-speed rail to disrupt aviation: Min

Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says some of the upcoming high-speed rail projects, including the Hyderabad-Bengaluru corridor that will reduce journey to 2 hours and 8 minutes, could disrupt the aviation market, "nobody will fly" on shorter routes. P 13

UP lawyers shot at over chamber row

Two lawyers suffered bullet injuries in their legs after being allegedly shot at during a clash over a chamber allotment inside Bulandshahr's district and sessions court complex on Monday. The accused advocates have been arrested and sent to jail. TNN

Himanta to be sworn in today

Assam CM-designate Himanta Biswa Sarma is set to join BJP's select club of figures who have held the post for consecutive terms — a circle led by none other than PM Modi — when he takes oath for his second consecutive term for the top job in the state on Tuesday. TNN

Govt: No reason to panic, but follow PM's energy pointers

No Rationing; Steps Taken To Avert Shortage

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A day after PM Modi set out a list of "resolutions" to conserve fuel and save foreign exchange, govt on Monday urged people to stay calm and avoid panic, saying there were enough oil supplies in the country and concrete steps were being taken to prevent shortages and supply chain disruptions.

Chairing a meeting of the informal group of ministers (IGoM) on West Asia developments, defence minister Rajnath Singh said, "govt's primary focus is to ensure that energy flows remain uninterrupted, economic stability is maintained and maritime trade routes remain secure".

FULL COVERAGE: P 11

IANS

PM Modi at Somnath temple for the 75th anniv celebrations

Modi: Nehru opposed Somnath rebuilding

At the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav, PM Modi accused his opponents of placing appeasement politics above national pride. The rebuilding of Somnath temple symbolised India's determination to reclaim its civilisational identity, he said. The PM alleged even after Independence, genuine efforts to reconstruct the temple faced resistance from then PM Nehru. P 8

At CII's annual meet, petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal said there was no need for fuel rationing or panic buying, even as he urged people to follow the PM's guidelines.

PM Modi doubled down on his appeal on Monday, and suggested schools consider online classes temporarily. "First came the Covid-19 crisis, followed by global economic challenges, and now rising tensions in West Asia. The impact of all these circumstances is continuously being felt across the entire world, and India is certainly not immune to it," he said in Vadodara. "Through every small and big effort, we must reduce our consumption of imported products and refrain from personal activities that involve expenditure of foreign currency."

▶14 ships through, P 9

Oil rises as Trump rejects Iran plan, Strait still shut

Oil prices rose after US President Trump rejected Iran's response to his latest peace proposal, prolonging the effective closure of the crucial Strait of Hormuz ahead of his trip to China from May 13.

Brent crude futures advanced as much as 4.6%, before paring gains to trade near $103 a barrel. Trump said he plans to suspend a federal gasoline tax as consumers deal with surging energy prices.

ENERGY WARS

In a post, Trump said Iran's response was "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE", and added that the ceasefire with Iran was "at its weakest" and on "life support". The US and Israel's war on Iran started on Feb 28, and attacks have been paused since April 8 in a truce deal. See inside jkt

Modi's push for WFH: Cos explore greater flexibility

Following PM Modi's call for austerity measures including work-from-home, companies have begun reviewing the possibility of WFH while getting at least some employees to come to office. Conglomerates like Tata and Reliance are exploring greater flexibility for employees amid fuel and supply disruption concerns. However, a WFH policy may complicate return-to-office plans in the IT sector, where companies are steadily increasing office attendance mandates. P 11

Sensex tumbles 1,313 pts, rupee hits a fresh low

The West Asia situation affected global investor sentiment on Monday, pushing up crude oil prices, weakening the rupee to a level below the 95-to-the-dollar mark, and leading to a sell-off on Dalal Street. While the rupee tanked 91 paise to settle at its record low of 95.31 against the dollar, sensex lost over 1,000 points in early trade, recovered some ground by mid-session, but fresh selling forced it to close 1,313 points down at 76,015 points. The day's session left investors poorer by a little over Rs 6 lakh crore with BSE's m-cap now at Rs 467.3 lakh crore, official data showed. Gold and jewellery stocks were among those that crashed. P 11

Amid high prices, buyers upcycle gold

Finding a way around steep prices, consumers are buying less of new gold, instead recycling or exchanging the precious metal stored in households and exchanging old jewellery for new gold. P 11

PM is avoiding accountability for failures: Oppn

The opposition on Monday said PM Modi always seeks sacrifices from people to avoid accountability for his failures. "In 12 years, he has brought the country to such a pass that the public now has to be told — what to buy...where to go," Congress's Rahul Gandhi said. "The compromised PM is no longer able to run the country." SP chief Akhilesh Yadav accused the govt of spreading fear instead of using its resources to tide over the crises. P 9

SC: To expedite bail hearing, HCs can dispense with notice

'Advance Copy Of Petition To Be Given To Govts'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said pendency of thousands of bail petitions for years in high courts violated the "precious" right to liberty and ordered that issuance of notice on bail pleas could be dispensed with by serving a petition copy in advance on prosecution to enable them to respond on the very first day of hearing.

At present, the normal practice for courts is to issue notice on the bail plea of the accused and seek response from the state govt, investigating agency or prosecution concerned. The response gets filed after weeks, thus delaying disposal of pleas for release from judicial or police custody in connection with a criminal case.

▶'Protecting rights', P 13

IN THE COURTS

- Counsel favouring and opposing supremacy of religious faith have canvassed a common point in SC — denominational heads must have disciplinary power to keep the flock together | P 13
- **SC holds in abeyance Guj HC's contempt of court conviction order against lawyer Yatin Oza**, calling it a final opportunity for course correction by him
- **SC relief for Congress' TD Rajegowda, says he will remain MLA of Sringeri** | P 5

SC: Show us 1 plan not opposed by green lobby

New Delhi: Refusing to entertain a plea against expansion of Pipavav port in Gujarat faulting the environmental clearance, the Supreme Court on Monday bluntly asked, "Show us a single project where these environmentalists have said we welcome this", while also emphasising that country cannot develop without infrastructure, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.**

Senior advocate Anitha Shenoy, for environmentalist Chetan Kumar Navintray Vyas, argued the project was stalled for over a decade and the environmental nod was given without considering the adverse impact on marine mammals, Olive Ridley turtles, avian species and mangroves.

> You want to stall everything in the name of the environment. **How can the country develop without infrastructure?** No doubt precautionary measures are essential. But tell us where else the depth of the sea permits big ports as in Gujarat —Supreme Court

▶ 'Want to stall', P 13

Niti: 22% teacher crunch in K'taka govt schools

A Niti Aayog report has revealed that nearly 22% of teaching positions in Karnataka's govt schools are vacant, placing the state among those facing major staff shortage in school education. Out of the sanctioned strength of 1,78,935 teachers across 41,088 govt primary schools, Karnataka currently faces a shortfall of 38,163 teachers. The state planned to recruit 15,000 teachers, but the hiring process is yet to begin. In contrast, states like Kerala and Delhi reported no teacher vacancies, **reports Sruthy Susan Ullas.** P 6

GBA too will have poll guarantees

Congress is planning to emulate its successful 2023 assembly poll guarantee schemes for the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority polls by unveiling Bengaluru-specific welfare promises, **reports Niranjan Kaggere.** Mobility, waste management, water supply and civic infrastructure are issues that strike a chord with every Bengalurean. GBA polls are scheduled to be held in the later part of June. P 6

NIA seeks info on gelatin sticks find

A day after gelatin sticks were recovered from a roadside near PM Narendra Modi's programme venue during his visit to the Art of Living Foundation in Kanakapura, a team of NIA officials has sought details from Bengaluru police. Officials suspect the box may have been placed deliberately to create panic rather than cause damage. P 4

A TATA PRODUCT
Your old gold.
India's new strength.
India imports 99% of its gold.
But if you were to exchange your old gold for new jewellery, importing gold won't be necessary.
Exchange your old gold at Tanishq, and help reduce India's dependency on imports.
Flat 0% deduction* on exchange of old gold as low as 9 karat, bought from any jeweller
Join the 36 lakh people who have already exchanged their old gold at Tanishq.
"My heartfelt thanks to everyone for playing a pivotal role in this effort. Every old gold exchange reduces gold imports and makes India more self-reliant."
-Sachin Tendulkar
TANISHQ
— GOLD —
EXCHANGE
Old gold from any jeweller accepted.
Year-round Exchange.
Choose from more than 1,00,000+ designs.
Exchange and upgrade to both gold and diamond designs.
Talk to our jewellery expert to know more 1800 2966 677
Buy online at tanishq.co.in
or Download our App
*Conditions apply, For T&C visit our website.
Scan the QR code to find the nearest Tanishq store

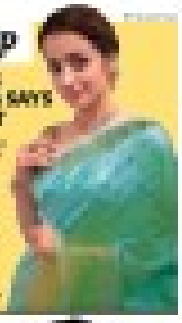
Bangalore Times

Superhero films make you want to be a better version of yourself: Babil

Vijay's Jana Nayagan to release in two weeks, confirms the film producer

Buzzstop

LOVE IS ALWAYS LOUDER, TRISHA SAYS IN CRYPTIC POST



Adolescence stages a clean sweep at BAFTA Awards

Thank You India!

Your trust has made us

150

SHOWROOMS STRONG

Every step forward is rooted in our vision '**Har Ghar KISNA**'
making diamond jewellery accessible to every Indian household

With heartfelt gratitude to our franchise partners and customers who made this possible

Khushi ke har pal ke liye KISNA

Andhra Pradesh | Arunachal Pradesh | Assam | Bihar | Chandigarh | Chhattisgarh | Delhi | Goa | Gujarat | Haryana | Himachal Pradesh | Jammu and Kashmir | Jharkhand | Karnataka | Keralam | Madhya Pradesh | Maharashtra | Manipur | Meghalaya | Nagaland | Odisha | Puducherry | Punjab | Rajasthan | Sikkim | Tamil Nadu | Telangana | Tripura | Uttar Pradesh | Uttarakhand | West Bengal

SCAN HERE

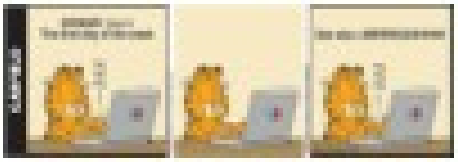
A star is not here and far: its size, but for its light - Rabindranath Chhetri

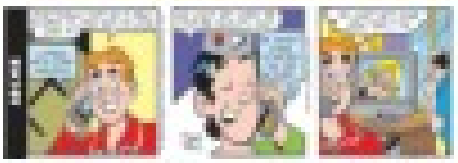
Drama, comedy, and tears: A recap of the BAFTA TV Awards ceremony

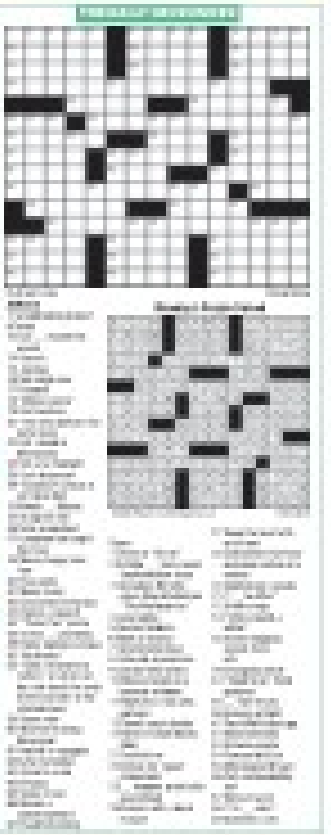
Why Vijay isn't just another actor-turned-politician

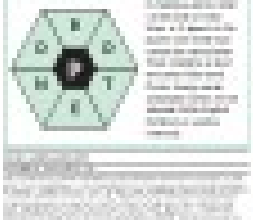
POV

LEISURE









FORCE MOTORS

Introducing the New

TRAVELLER N

40 years of trust. Over 3 Lakh vehicles. Infinite journeys.
Ready for the next generation of mobility.

REDEFINED MOBILITY
28 NEW FEATURES

For over 40 years, TRAVELLER has powered India's mobility, connecting people, enabling businesses, and supporting essential services across the country.

With over 3 Lakh vehicles on the road and a dominant position in its segment, TRAVELLER stands as one of India's most trusted mobility solutions.

Style that reflects a modern India on the move. **Comfort & Convenience** that makes every journey seamless through intuitive design and enhanced ease, for both drivers and passengers. **Safety & Reliability** which delivers smiles, mile after mile.

From workplaces and classrooms to goods transport and healthcare, the **New TRAVELLER N** range supports every journey that keeps India moving.

A Force That Moves The Nation

FORCE iPULSE Advanced Telematics Solution

Extended Warranty | Parts Warranty | Accidental Repair
FORCE CARE
24/7 Sarvottam Seva | Roadside Assistance | I-Pulse Control Tower

www.forcemotors.com
Toll-Free Number: 1800 2335 000

ONCE AGAIN,

A *MOTHER* WILL BOOK SNABBIT.

ONCE AGAIN,

A *MOTHER* WILL SHOW UP.

70% of Snabbit Experts are mothers

RAIN CHECK FOR ULSOOR LAKE

Desilting hits pause amid eco concerns

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The redevelopment and desilting of Ulsoor Lake, taken up nearly two decades after major restoration efforts, has hit a temporary pause after recent rain refilled some areas. It has slowed critical desilting work before the monsoon sets in.

The nearly Rs 25-crore rejuvenation project, currently under way at the historic waterbody, includes desilting and civic infrastructure upgrades. However, rainwater inflow after April 19 rain has complicated excavation efforts. According to engineers from the Bengaluru Central City Corporation, the future of desilting now largely depends on the intensity of pre-monsoon showers expected through May. "We will wait for the next three days based on weather forecasts. The only way forward is to dewater the lake again and resume desilting," an engineer said. "As of now, we have opened the channel to ensure water flows out and does not remain stored in the lake."

Officials added that if heavy pre-monsoon showers continue, authorities may have no choice but to pause desilting until the monsoon concludes. "We hope to get rain-free days before the monsoon fully sets in so we can complete the remaining work," the engineer said, adding that around 60% of desilting has been completed so far. Civil works, however, are expected to continue irrespective of rain and remain on track for completion within the 11-month project timeline.

Plastic poses challenge

Even as work progresses, officials say the project has encountered an unforeseen obstacle — massive quantities of plastic waste buried deep beneath the lakebed. "As we dig, more and more garbage is surfacing. We did not anticipate this at such a scale," the engineer said.

Officials said desilting is currently being carried out only to a depth of 0.5 to 0.6 metres, significantly lower than the originally proposed 1.5 metres, limiting the extent of lake restoration. The presence of plastic waste has also complicated operations.

Unlike silt, embedded garbage cannot be removed using heavy machinery and would require manual labour — an aspect not included in the original project scope. "Even if we dig deeper, we are likely to continue finding garbage. Most of it enters through stormwater drains," the engineer said, adding that authorities are yet to devise a mechanism to systematically remove the accumulated waste without delaying the project.

Citizens see red over walkway concretisation

The redevelopment itself has drawn sharp criticism from environmental activists and citizens, who allege ecological degradation, excessive concretisation and alteration of the lake's natural structure.

A recent citizen inspection of the lake sparked concerns over the pace and nature of work. Activists claimed that while authorities had assured round-the-clock desilting to prepare for the monsoon, activity at the site appeared minimal.

"We were told machines would run 24/7 to prepare for the rains. Instead, much of the site appeared idle during the day," said Rajgopalan R, founder of Bengaluru Coalition, a civic forum.

Among the strongest criticisms are allegations of overuse of concrete along the lake bund and damage to surrounding ecology.

Vinod Jacob, an activist, described a recent visit to the lake as "a heartbreaking eye-opener," alleging that steel and concrete are transforming the waterbody into a "sterile water tank." "Bengaluru deserves better. We need to protect our lakes, not pave them over," he said, raising concerns over tree roots being exposed and the possibility of trees collapsing during the monsoon.

At the centre of citizen criticism is the construction of a nearly 15-foot-wide concrete walkway, which activists claim extends around 20 feet into the lake bed, replacing an existing mud pathway and modifying the natural bund slope.

"There are reasons why lake bunds are designed with gradual slopes. What is being built now is vertical, heavily concretised and ecologically damaging," Rajgopalan said, adding that fish populations and bird activity around the lake have also reduced.

Citizen groups are now considering approaching the National Green Tribunal, arguing that such redevelopment models could be replicated across other city lakes if left unchecked.

Chethan Shivakumar

WORK IN LIMBO: Water inflow after April 19 rain has affected works at Ulsoor Lake which is undergoing rejuvenation at a cost of Rs 25 crore. Around 60% of desilting has been completed so far

Industrial borewells rise 10%, deepen groundwater worries

No Single Agency Monitors Groundwater Extraction In K'taka

Vindhya.Pabolu @timesofindia.com

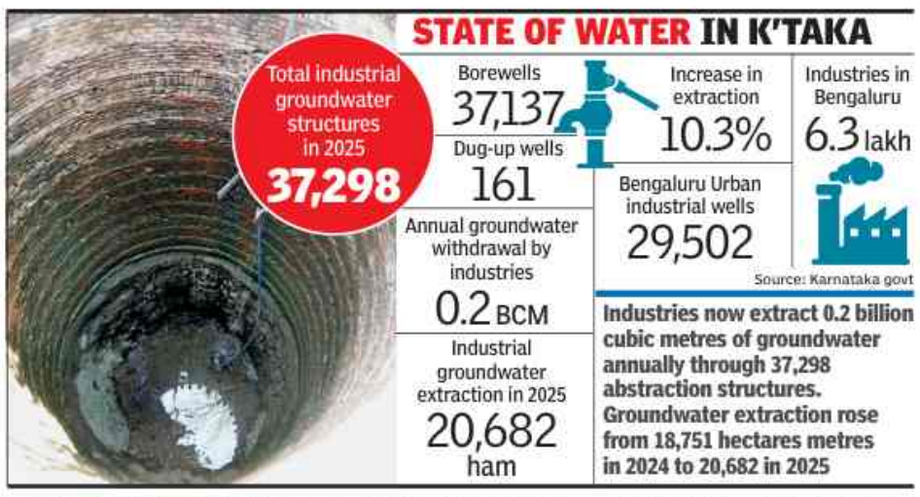
Bengaluru: In split-screen data on groundwater table, Karnataka has registered a slight improvement in groundwater recharge in 2025. At the same time, it has seen a worrying rise in industrial borewells and groundwater extraction.

Industrial borewells are high-intensity, heavy-duty wells to pump out large volumes of groundwater to meet requirements of factories, commercial enterprises or industrial units.

Karnataka added 3,234 industrial borewells in just one year, marking a 10.3% increase year on year, according to Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment 2025. Officials said the actual number could be higher as many illegal or unregistered borewells remain outside official records.

Authorities said inspections had revealed a sharp increase in both legal and illegal borewells. However, officials added there is still no single agency monitoring groundwater extraction across Karnataka's industrial areas.

Industries now extract nearly 0.2 billion cubic metres of groundwater annually through 37,298 abstraction structures. Industrial groundwater extraction increased from 18,751 ham (hectares metres) in 2024 to 20,682 ham in 2025. The report noted a steady shift from dug wells to borewells since 2000, particularly for industrial and irrigation purposes.



Bengaluru Urban district alone accounts for 29,502 industrial wells, the highest in Karnataka. The rise comes even as industries continue to depend heavily on water tankers and groundwater due to the lack of reliable supply infrastructure.

An owner of an electric transformer tank manufacturing unit in Dabaspet, near Tumakuru, told **TOI**: "Our source is either water tankers or borewells. They are not giving us permission for digging borewells despite requests. Since our area comes under a special investment zone, it is still under KIADB."

"We've paid Rs 8.3 lakh per acre for water, but till now they haven't given even a single drop to us. There are at least 300 units here, with a majority being MSMEs. Every week, on average, at least 4-5 tankers are required for workers. We have submitted multiple letters and requests, but to no avail," he added.

An aircraft components manufacturer in Bommasandra said rising tanker prices had pushed industries towards borewells.

"The situation has been bad for nearly a decade and nobody is bothered. We depend on borewells because the department has never provided us with water supply infrastructure and we can't keep depending on tankers as the prices are too high," he said.

"With no other way I have applied for a borewell by paying money again to the officials and dug up a few years back, which I don't know how long it's going to last. I am planning to close the industry and shift to Tamil Nadu as we have nothing here from road to water," he said.

Industry bodies said the problem was worse in industrial clusters outside Bengaluru city limits. Uma Reddy, president, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said: "Many industries in Doddaballapur, Dabaspet and Harohalli are dependent only on borewells as they lack support from KIADB, which is responsible for providing water facilities."

In Peenya, however, industries have increasingly shifted towards BWSSB connections. In Jan, BWSSB floated a Rs 20-crore project to supply 4 MLD of treated water from Nagasandra STP to Peenya Industrial Area through a dedicated 27-km pipeline.

Officials admitted enforcement remains weak due to manpower shortages and fragmented jurisdiction. Groundwater monitoring, permissions and enforcement are handled by different departments, while industrial areas outside city limits often fall under gram panchayats.

Auto driver flashes at student

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 19-year-old undergraduate student alleged that an auto driver sexually harassed her while she was walking on Promenade Road at Cleveland Town in east Bengaluru.

A resident of JC Nagar, the first-year BSc student at a private college in Vasanthnagar filed a complaint with police about the incident which happened at 12.45pm on May 7. After participating in a sports meet at a PU college, she left for home. As she was walking on the roadside, a man seated in a parked autorickshaw signalled at her. Once he got her attention, he unzipped and flashed at her and began masturbating in broad daylight.

Later, the driver took a turn and again gestured at her to get into his vehicle. When she tried to raise an alarm, the driver escaped in his autorickshaw. The girl told her parents about the incident on May 9. With their support, she approached police. A senior officer said the complainant's father, who works in a private firm, brought her to the station after counselling her. A case has been registered under BNS Sections 74 (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 75 (sexual harassment) and 79 (word, gesture or act intended to insult modesty of a woman).

Police have verified CCTV footage of the surrounding areas. The auto registration number is not clear in the footage. So, we have sent the footage to the command centre for assistance. Efforts are on to nab the accused, the officer said.

Gelatin sticks: Police step up probe; NIA seeks info

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Police have intensified investigation into the discovery of gelatin sticks near the route of PM Narendra Modi during his visit to the Art of Living Foundation Sunday.

The carton box recovered near Kuppareddy Kere contained two gelatin sticks, a matchbox and a camphor box, police said. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) have also sought details from Bengaluru South district police.

DIG (central) S Girish said special teams were working to determine how the box ended up near the compound wall of a private property. Bengaluru South SP R Srinivas Gowda confirmed that no arrests had been made so far.

The box, sealed with tape, was found about 25 feet from the main road and around 2km from the Art of Living campus on National Highway-948. A police constable deployed for special security duty noticed the suspicious package around 9.45am and alerted senior officers. An anti-sabotage squad later seized the materials.

Kaggalipura police registered a case under the Explosives Act. Four special teams led by a deputy superintendent of police have been formed for the probe. A senior officer said NIA and IB officials visited the spot Monday and collected details.

Hoax caller in custody

Meanwhile, Koramangala police have taken Lohith *alias* Lohith Krishnappa, 42, a resident of Koramangala 8th Block, into custody for allegedly making a hoax threat call around 7.30am Sunday.

He had claimed that blasts would be carried out at HAL airport and the Art of Living Foundation. An officer said Lohith, who is staying with his parents, appeared mentally disturbed. He is separated from his wife and had earlier been admitted to a rehabilitation centre. "Lohith has no history of making hoax calls in the past," the officer said. Police visited Lohith's house and conducted an inspection Monday.

Karandlaje targets Cong govt

Union minister of state Shobha Karandlaje Monday demanded a comprehensive probe by the NIA into the issue. She also targeted Congress govt in Karnataka over alleged "security lapses".

"The question is whether Karnataka govt is concerned about the PM's security," she told reporters. Accusing state govt of destabilising the police department, she said: "Despite being aware of the PM's visit, why was a decision taken to transfer over100 inspectors and other officials? Such transfers will create confusion. What was the need for such urgent transfers? The govt must explain why adequate caution was not exercised along the route."

Bid to create panic?

"Iinvestigation is still at an early stage and we have shared available information," an officer said. Police dismissed reports claiming that more gelatin sticks had been recovered or that teams had been sent to Tamil Nadu in connection with the case.

Investigators are examining CCTV footage from roads leading to the spot, including entry and exit points, as there were no cameras installed nearby. More than 50 CCTV feeds had been checked till Monday evening. Officials suspect the box may have been placed deliberately to create panic rather than cause damage. "The presence of a matchbox and camphor box suggests an attempt to trigger fear. If someone intended to abandon explosives, they would not have packed and taped the box in this manner," a senior officer said.

Police maintained that there was no possibility of an explosion as no detonator was found. Investigators are also examining whether the act was linked to individuals holding grievances against the Art of Living Foundation.

Wait gets longer as Cantt-Whitefield rail quadrupling deadline pushed to March 2027

Suchith.Kidiyoor @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: South Western Railway (SWR) has revised the completion deadline for quadrupling of the rail corridor between Cantonment and Whitefield to March 2027. The project was sanctioned in 2018 and SWR maintains that 75% of the work is complete.

The 19km project, approved at an estimated cost of Rs 492 crore, is intended to ease congestion on one of Bengaluru's busiest rail corridors, linking the central business district with the city's IT hub at Whitefield. The corridor serves key stations en route, including Bengaluru East, Byappanahalli, KR Pura, and Hoodi Halt.

At the time of sanction, the railways projected that the upgraded line would benefit approximately 62,000 daily commuters. However, the project faced repeated delays, with multiple deadlines announced and subsequently missed over the years. The project is now estimated to cost Rs 664.5 crore.

SWR officials said 25% of the work is pending, and the first phase of the project from Cantonment to Byappanahalli West Cabin, covering 5km, has already been commissioned. "The rest of the stretch from Byappanahalli to Whitefield, spanning 14km, will be completed by March 2027," an official said. Asked why the execution of the project is taking more time, SWR said the work within city limits involves multiple challenges, including the movement of machinery and the shifting of utilities.

Chethan Shivakumar

LINKING PLACES: The 19-km project, cleared at an estimated cost of Rs 492 crore, aims to decongest one of Bengaluru's busiest rail corridors

An official said, "Remodelling of major yards at Byappanahalli, KR Pura and Whitefield posed challenges." In addition, construction of retaining walls to accommodate new lines is an issue due to non-availability of sufficient railway land. SWR chief PRO Manjunath Kanamadi said once complete, there will be improved mobility on this corridor.

"An average of 47 up and 47 down trains operate daily between Bengaluru Cantonment and Byappanahalli, and 40 up and 40 down services between Byappanahalli and Whitefield. With the induction of an additional dedicated Memu rake, up to 14 more up and 14 down services can be introduced daily, excluding a three-hour corridor block. The average end-to-end travel time between Cantonment and Whitefield is estimated at 35 minutes, with a 10-minute turnaround for cab changes at either end. There are plans to expand services towards Tumakuru, Hosur and Kuppam railway stations, subject to demand. Maintenance infrastructure at Banaswadi railway station will also need to be upgraded to support additional Memu rakes," he said.

The official said redevelopment at Whitefield railway station is nearing completion, with works such as platform shelters, a new food plaza building, parking facilities for two- and four-wheelers, and landscaping already finished. "Construction of a 12-metre-wide foot overbridge is currently in progress," he said.

At KR Pura railway station, facilities including vehicle parking, a VIP lounge, and pay-and-use toilets have been completed. Shelters on Platform 4 and the third entry station building are under construction. "Work on a 12-metre-wide foot overbridge will be taken up after yard remodelling as part of the quadrupling project," he said.

Chennai factory to supply 153 AC Metro-type coaches

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Integrated Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprises Ltd (Bi-RIDE) issued a work order to Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for supply of 153 air-conditioned broad-gauge Metro-type coaches for Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP). Bi-RIDE is a subsidiary of K-RIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company Karnataka Ltd).

The coaches directly procured from ICF Chennai will be deployed for corridors 2 and 4 of BSRP. The total value of the work order is around Rs 1,514 crore. "As per the contract awarded on May 6, ICF must commence supply of coaches within 18 months. This deadline has been set with the objective of opening Chikkabanavara-Yeshwantpur section, which falls under corridor 2," according to a K-RIDE press release.

SUBURBAN RAIL

The procurement of coaches is in line with the timeline set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Pragati meeting in Dec 2025. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed between the two organisations soon, K-RIDE said. Apart from coaches, the scope of the work order includes detailed design and manufacturing of rolling stock, quality inspection, integration, testing and commissioning, obtaining statutory approvals from Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), coordination and interfacing with the designated contracts for signalling, traction and power supply, and platform screen doors.

TOI

PROJECT ON THE FAST TRACK?

While sanctioning the project, KRIDE was asked to lease coaches required for the project from private agencies for operations and maintenance. But multiple tenders floated by KRIDE failed to yield expected results. Later, it was decided to directly procure coaches from ICF. In April, govt gave exemption under Section 4(g) of Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act, 1999, for procurement of the coaches from ICF.

"Through this partnership with ICF, we are ensuring that required train coaches will be available by the time track and systems infrastructure work for corridors 2 and 4 is completed," KRIDE MD Laxman Singh said.

BSRP project, sanctioned in 2020 with a deadline of 6 years, is progressing at a slow pace. Recently, K-RIDE revived the stalled corridor 2 (Byappanahalli-Chikkabanavara) project by awarding fresh contracts to take up pending works of two packages, whereas fresh tenders will be floated for the third package. For corridor 4, from Helalige to Rajankunte, KRIDE is yet to float tenders for pending works.

Sometimes, our souls need a little magic: Babil

WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Priyanka Chopra honoured with Global Vanguard Award at Gold Gala 2024

Bhumi Pednekar acts like Royals after makes silent storyline, says report

Cong support for Vijay may soften tone, not Cauvery tension with TN

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda
@timesofindia.com

Ravi Posavanike

FANS IN ALL PLACES: A banner congratulating newly installed Tamil Nadu CM Joseph Vijay on display in a remote village near Vittal in Dakshina Kannada district on Monday

Bengaluru: The emergence of C Joseph Vijay as Tamil Nadu chief minister with support from Congress has triggered fresh debate in Karnataka over whether the new arrangement could ease tensions on river water sharing disputes and the proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir project.

Political observers say the arrangement is significant since Congress also holds the reins in Karnataka. They say it could lead to smoother communication channels between Bengaluru and Chennai, but caution that emotionally sensitive interstate disputes are unlikely to disappear.

The Cauvery river water dispute remains the most contentious issue between the two states. Karnataka faces annual pressure to release water to Tamil Nadu as per directions of Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Supreme Court. The issue becomes politically volatile during years of poor rainfall and low reservoir storage.

Weak monsoon this year?

This year, concerns have intensified as India meteorological department has indicated the possibility of a weak or patchy southwest monsoon. Water experts warn that below-normal rainfall could again sharpen tensions over reservoir management and water releases.

Under the Supreme Court's 2018 verdict, Karnataka is required to release 177.2tmc of Cauvery water annually to Tamil Nadu in a normal water year. The quota is distributed across monthly schedules from June to May, with larger releases during the monsoon period.

Political strategist MB Maramkal said the Congress factor may reduce public confrontation between the two states, but regional compulsions will continue to dominate decision-making.

"Congress will try to ensure disputes are handled through institutional discussions rather than street-level political escalation," he said. "But no Karnataka govt can ignore farmers' concerns, and no Tamil Nadu govt can appear weak on Cauvery. Climate uncertainty will also make the dispute increasingly difficult for both states."

Tamil Nadu has consistently maintained that Karnataka must adhere to the monthly release schedule fixed under the Cauvery tribunal award and Supreme Court orders, as farmers in delta districts depend on timely water flow for kuruvai and samba cultivation.

However, Karnataka argues that drinking water needs of Bengaluru and irrigation requirements in the Cauvery basin must receive priority during distress years. The Siddaramaiah govt has repeatedly stressed rainfall and reservoir levels should be considered before water is released.

The proposed Mekedatu project is expected to emerge as another major flashpoint. Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, who holds the water resources portfolio, is pushing the balancing reservoir project and plans to submit a detailed project report to the Centre by May-June. Karnataka argues the project is essential to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and generate 400Mw of power, while Tamil Nadu fears it could affect downstream water flow.

Can't compromise

Political analyst Vishwas Shetty said Vijay may initially adopt a softer approach towards Karnataka because of Congress support, but political realities could force a stronger stand.

"AIADMK and DMK will closely watch Vijay's handling of Cauvery and Mekedatu. Any perception that Tamil Nadu is compromising will immediately become a political issue," Shetty said.

Stocking, elections see liquor sales rise to 13-yr April high

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka recorded its highest excise collection for April in 13 years, with the govt mopping up Rs 3,688 crore from liquor sales ahead of the new Indian made foreign liquor (IMFL) pricing regime that came into effect on Monday.

The surge was largely driven by bulk stocking by consumers, retailers and licenced holders anticipating a 15-20% increase in prices under the new alcohol-by-volume (ABV) taxation structure. Venkatesh Kumar, excise commissioner, said the spike was unprecedented both in value and volume over the past decade.

Sources say sales momentum was also aided by assembly elections in neighbouring Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which concluded last month, besides the festival of Ugadi during the month.

Since liquor trade in both Kerala and Tamil Nadu is controlled by their respective state govts, Karnataka reportedly saw increased buying in border areas during the elections, although officials say Chamarajanagar district witnessed tighter checks on the border to curb illegal movement of liquor during the elections.

The beer segment also recorded strong growth due to soaring temperatures across Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, excise department sources said.

Meanwhile, the department achieved its annual revenue target of Rs 40,000 crore set by chief minister Siddaramaiah in the previous financial year and is now preparing to meet the revised target of Rs 45,000 crore announced in the latest budget.

TOI

FRUITFUL DAY OUT: Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda visited the ongoing mango and jackfruit mela at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on Monday. The JD(S) supremo sampled some of the produce and later defended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on austerity, saying: "Because of the conflict in Iran, movement of ships carrying fuel has been disrupted which is why PM Modi has advised caution."

TOI

FINAL PASSAGE: Chief minister Siddaramaiah handed over the national flag to D Sudhakar's wife at the Jain graveyard in Chitradurga on Monday. DK Shivakumar was present

Thousands attend Sudhakar's last rites

Thousands, including chief minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy DK Shivakumar, ministers and elected representatives across parties, gathered in Challakere, Chitradurga, Monday to bid farewell to planning and statistics minister D Sudhakar who passed away Sunday.

His funeral, conducted with full state honours and in accordance with Jain religious customs, took place in the evening at the Jain graveyard in Challakere, marking the end of a day of grief, remembrance, and public tribute. Sudhakar's mortal remains had earlier arrived in Challakere, where initial arrangements were made at his residence for family members, close associates, and residents to pay their respects.

As the crowd swelled, the body was shifted by ambulance to the HPPC First Grade Degree College Ground (Stadium), where it was kept for public viewing until 2pm. People from across the district and beyond stood in long lines, many carrying flowers, many weeping quietly, all waiting for a final glimpse of the departed politician. At the funeral grounds, police rendered a three-round gun salute, and a brief period of silence was observed as prayers were offered. Sudhakar's son Suhas, and other family members performed the final rites. TNN

Cong ridicules PM's austerity call

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

> PM Modi's speech in Bengaluru reflected the failure of his own govt at the Centre and his helplessness over BJP's condition in Karnataka. Instead of addressing issues within his party, he chose to attack us. Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee never reduced political discourse to street-style speeches. By delivering speeches filled with lies, hatred and jealousy, Narendra Modi is damaging the dignity, seriousness and propriety of the PM's office
> **Siddaramaiah** | CHIEF MINISTER

> PM Modi's speech in Bengaluru celebrating victories in Bengal, Assam and Puducherry has clearly unsettled CM Siddaramaiah and Congress functionaries because he voiced what seven crore Kannadigas feel about infighting that has paralysed the Congress govt from day one. It is ironic for Siddaramaiah to lecture others on dignity and decorum while politicising even the budget and governor's address
> **R Ashoka** | OPPOSITION LEADER

Bengaluru: Chief minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar Monday mounted a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his appeal for austerity measures, questioning the contradiction between the Centre's economic claims and calls for restraint.

Referring to Modi's appeal at an event in Telangana Sunday, Siddaramaiah said the PM must explain what kind of "development" the country is witnessing.

"The Prime Minister, who boasted that he would make India a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2024-25, who proudly claimed that India's development chariot was racing ahead, is now pleading with people not to buy gold, to use less petrol and edible oil, to avoid foreign travel, and to reduce the use of fertilisers. PM Modi must clarify what kind of development this reflects," Siddaramaiah said in a statement.

Congress also linked rising fuel and commodity prices to the Centre's foreign policy amid the conflict involving Israel, the US and Iran. "The people of this country are mature enough to understand that the hardship they are facing in their daily lives, with petrol, diesel, cooking gas and edible oil becoming costlier, is the result of the country's confused foreign policy," a statement said.

Congress cited official indicators to defend Karnataka's economic performance, pointing out that the state's per capita income stood at Rs 4.3 lakh against the national average of Rs 2.1 lakh, while Karnataka's GDP growth rate was 8.1% compared to India's 7.4%.

Shivakumar called the PM's suggestions "impractical". "Modi doesn't say why gold prices hiked. He is asking people to reduce petrol consumption but doesn't say why prices were hiked. How can you tell those planning weddings or religious ceremonies not to buy gold?" he asked.

Questioning the call to use public transport, Shivakumar said austerity should begin with BJP functionaries and central govt officials. "One should practice first, before preaching to others," he said.

In twist, SC reinstates Cong candidate as MLA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Sringeri election saga continued with the Supreme Court Monday granting interim relief for Congress functionary TD Rajegowda, directing that he will remain MLA of the constituency for the time being, despite the Election Commission declaring BJP candidate DN Jeevaraj winner last week after a recount of postal ballots.

SRINGERI SEAT

"We cannot let you hijack democracy like this," a bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and K Vinod Chandran observed, while passing an order restoring status quo to what it was before the recount ordered by the Karnataka high court.

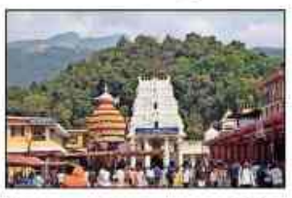
In the 2023 assembly poll, Rajegowda was declared winner by 201 votes, a result which Jeevaraj challenged through an election petition in the high court. After a recount of postal ballots on May 3 this year, Jeevaraj was declared the winning candidate and was sworn in as MLA.

In a petition in the SC challenging the recount, Rajegowda argued that even though the high court only ordered reverification of 279 rejected postal ballots, the returning officer illegally reconsidered 562 valid postal ballots that were polled in his favour.

Rajegowda told reporters in Chikkamagaluru the SC had upheld the Constitution and that the guilty must be punished. "The apex court has sent out a clear message that elections must be conducted fairly and transparently," Rajegowda said. "I have not done anything wrong; truth will prevail. I am ready to face any investigation."

Kukke retains crown as state's richest temple

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Mangaluru: With an annual income of Rs 167.8 crore in 2025–26, Kukke Shri Subrahmanya Temple in Dakshina Kannada district has once again emerged as the richest temple under muzrai department, holding the top spot for the 15th year in a row.

The revenue generated between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, rose by nearly Rs 12 crore compared to the Rs 155 crore earned in 2024–25. During the same period, the temple's expenditure stood at Rs 85.2 crore.

A major share of the income came from seva-related offerings and special rituals, which together contributed Rs 64 crore.

Hundi collections amounted to Rs 24.6 crore, while direct offerings accounted for Rs 5.4 crore. E-hundi contributions added Rs 38 lakh, reflecting the growing use of digital platforms by devotees.

Kukke Subrahmanya Temple is known to attract several high-profile devotees, including Bollywood celebrities and sportspersons.

Interest earned from investments emerged as one of the largest revenue contributors, generating Rs 49.1 crore during the year. Contributions towards choultry maintenance brought in Rs 6.9 crore, while Annasantarpane fund accounted for Rs 9.1 crore, officials said.

Other income streams included Rs 2.5 crore from contracts, Rs 94.4 lakh from rentals of buildings and shops, Rs 10.5 lakh from agricultural and plantation produce, and Rs 56.7 lakh through permanent seva deposits. Miscellaneous sources together contributed Rs 3.2 crore.

In 2006–07, the temple recorded an income of Rs 19.7 crore. The following year, with earnings rising to Rs 24.4 crore, it became the highest-earning temple under the state's Muzrai department. Since then, revenues have steadily increased, crossing the Rs 100 crore mark in recent years.

Experts cite oversupply as losses trigger distress sales of tomato

▶Continued from page 1

Photo for reressentation

PRICE CONUNDRUM

The NABCONS study, commissioned by Union ministry of food processing industries, examined post-harvest losses across 54 crops nationwide.

Experts attributed the losses to a sharp spike in supply during peak harvest season, leading to oversupply and distress sales. Karnataka is expected to produce around 227 lakh tonnes of tomatoes this year, largely in Kolar, Chikkaballapura and Belagavi districts, besides parts of Mandya, Mysuru and Haveri. After tomatoes, marine fish recorded the second-highest post-harvest loss in Karnataka, with NABCONS estimating losses around 9%. However, fisheries department officials disputed these figures, saying most fish byproducts are eventually utilised.

Karnataka produces nearly 5 lakh tonnes of marine fish annually. ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) director Tusar Kanti Behera said: "Tomato production rises by nearly 25% in Feb-March due to heavy harvesting. This increases demand for cold storage in the main tomato-producing districts."

Behera said IIHR has been working with tomato growers in Kolar and Chikkaballapura to encourage crop diversification, but adoption remains low. "Farmers are wary of accepting diversification," he added.

Arguing that the figures on marine fish wastage do not reflect the full extent of utilisation, fisheries director Dinesh Kumar Kaller said: "Even fish scraps and byproducts are fully utilised, with low-quality catch often used as feed or manure. The state govt also has sufficient cold storage facilities."

Harsh summer drives ice apple demand as TN traders do brisk business in Kolar

Ranganath K | TNN

Kolar: As temperatures continue to remain high, roadside stalls selling ice apples — known as taati ningu – have become a common sight across Kolar district with traders from neighbouring Tamil Nadu reporting brisk business.

Dozens of traders travel from across the state border to sell the seasonal fruit, which is widely consumed during summer for its cooling properties. Also called palm fruit, it is largely grown in Tamil Nadu and parts of Andhra Pradesh and transported to Kolar district.

Kolar has witnessed harsh summers over the past few years, with residents turning to traditional summer fruits and drinks to beat the heat. Traders say the demand for ice apples has risen steadily along with temperatures.

Each fruit, containing three seeds, is sold for around Rs 60. Traders usually chop open the hard outer bark on the spot and hand over the translucent seeds to customers. The fruit is known for its watery texture and is consumed as a natural coolant.

TOI

COOLANTS: Ice apples sold in Kolar

Sreesha R from Kolar said the fruit is valued not only for its hydration effects but also for its nutritional benefits. "These fruits are rich in vitamins A, B and C. They also contain potassium, phosphorus... Arthritis patients need to consume more of these fruits to keep improve their condition," he said.

Traders say the business is seasonal and highly competitive. Siva Mani, a trader from Tamil Nadu, said the fruits are brought once every four days and distributed to retail points across the district. "Normally, contractors purchase the crops of the entire season and sell them to traders like us," said Siva Mani.

He added that nearly 40 traders are currently operating in Kolar, with similar numbers in KGF, Bangarpet and Mulbagal. The fruit season usually begins in Feb and lasts till early June, after which most traders return to their villages.

Traders in Kolar have also entered the business, though many admit that competing with experienced Tamil Nadu vendors remains difficult.

TOI AI Summer Camp FOR STUDENTS
4 WEEKS TO LEARN | 12 MONTHS TO GROW
AN OPEN INVITATION FROM
THE TIMES OF INDIA
The Last AI Summer Camp of the Season
WINNER
Create with AI this summer. Win an Apple Laptop.
GUARANTEED
Get Your Child's AI Project Featured on TOI
GUARANTEED
Be a Certified Young AI Explorer This Summer
4-WEEK AI LEARNING EXPERIENCE
Hands-on exposure to 20+ Generative AI tools
Use AI in academics to simplify concepts and improve practice
Learn AI, create, build & showcase real projects
For Classes 5–12 | Beginner-Friendly
Register Now – Don't Miss This Summer
TOI THE TIMES OF INDIA
The TOI Promise: Guaranteed AI Learning for Every Student
Scan to Explore the AI Camp
Limited Seat Batch
SCAN FOR DETAILS
Call us or Send Hi on Whatsapp:
+91 78350 54363
Visit Site:
http://toi.in/ai-camp7
Registration Benefit
Flat ₹5,000 Off
A TIMES INTERNET PRODUCT
Ai

Niti Aayog: Govt-run schools face 22% teacher shortage

SruthySusan.Ullas
@timesofindia.com

Against the total sanctioned teacher strength of 1.8 lakh for 41,088 govt primary schools in Karnataka, there's a shortage of 38,163 teachers, according to data

Bengaluru: Nearly 22% of teachers' posts in Karnataka govt schools are vacant, a Niti Aayog report said, placing the state among those with a significant staffing gap in school education.

Against the total sanctioned strength of 1,78,935 for 41,088 government primary schools, there's a shortage of 38,163 teachers.

Quoting from project approval board meetings of 2025, the Niti report said 77% of the vacancies are in primary and upper primary schools. Of the total shortfall, 29,473 vacancies are at the elementary level and 8,690 at the secondary level.

In absolute terms, Karnataka's shortage is lower than those of Bihar, which reported 2.8 lakh vacancies, Jharkhand (99,565), Madhya Pradesh (52,019) and West Bengal (77,798). The report said that states should focus on policy correctives.

States such as Kerala and Delhi reported no teacher vacancies. Telangana and Chhattisgarh did not specify figures. Karnataka govt had earlier announced plans to recruit 15,000 teachers. The process is yet to begin.

"There has been a new decision by the cabinet on internal reservation. After incorporating that, notifications will be issued. Once the nod comes from finance dept, we can complete recruitment in 100 days. We hope to fill vacancies in latter part of coming academic year," commissioner for school education, Vikas Kishor Suralkar, said.

Educationists said the delay reflects a lack of urgency in addressing the condition of govt schools.

"We haven't seen evidence of genuine attempts to improve our schools across the state in the past three years," Maya Menon, founder-director, The Teacher Foundation, said. "Committed and competent teachers are critical for improving our schools, as is thoughtful and sustained professional development of teachers. These have taken a backseat. Exam results are not an indication of what children learn in our schools," Menon added.

AS Seetharamu, former faculty member at Institute for Social and Economic Change, said the growing dependence on temporary appointments has contributed to the persistence of vacancies, pointing to the expansion of guest and contract teacher appointments after the launch of Shiksha Karmi project and Samagra Shikshana Abhiyan.

"With flexibility in appointment and with cost-effectiveness and appointments without legislature nod, large volume of vacancies of regular teachers continued all over India. Low investments for quality schooling is the reason for vacancies," Seetharamu said.

Seetharamu pointed to a mismatch between supply and employment opportunities, noting Karnataka has an "over-saturation" of qualified teachers waiting for govt jobs, even as several DEd and BEd colleges are witnessing decline in admissions and closures.

2 children die as shed catches fire

Bengaluru: Two children of a daily-wager couple were charred to death in their makeshift shed at Narayanapura, Kottanur, Monday afternoon.

The deceased are D Arjun and D Asha. Their parents, Durgappa and Savitri, were at work at an under-construction site when the incident took place around 1.30pm, police said.

"The children's grandmother was in the bathroom when the two were playing in the hall. Suddenly, a fire broke out and spread quickly. Neighbours and others tried to rush in and save the kids, but in vain. Due to smoke and burns, Arjun died instantly while Asha succumbed en route to hospital," an investigating officer said.

Police said the fire could have started from an inflammable material like a cigarette lighter or mosquito coil.

Rider dies as bike skids

A 20-year-old hotel assistant succumbed to head injuries after his sports bike skidded off the road near Chikkajala early Monday morning. The deceased, Lakshay Kumar, from HRBR Layout, was riding towards Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) after finishing work post-midnight. Police said while passing Vidyanagar bridge at 4am, his bike skidded off and he fell on the road. TNN

Govt set to unveil guarantees tailored for B'luru tomorrow

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesofindia.com

Congress govt Monday appointed chairpersons to guarantee implementation committees in all five corporations of GBA, which were vacant for the past two and a half years

Bengaluru: Guarantees are back on the table, this time for Greater Bengaluru Authority elections. Mobility, waste management, water supply and civic infrastructure will remain hot-button issues amid suggestions to collapse five corporations into North and South divisions for better administrative control.

GBA POLLS

Buoyed by the success of five guarantees embedded into its manifesto for the 2023 assembly elections, Congress govt is preparing a Bengaluru-specific version, signalling its attempt to tighten grip over the state capital through targeted urban welfare promises.

The guarantees are likely to be announced on May 13, a week before Siddaramaiah govt completes three years in office. The govt Monday appointed chairpersons to guarantee implementation committees in all five GBA corporations, which were vacant for the past two-and-a-half years. GBA polls are scheduled to be held in the later part of June.

Deputy chief minister and Bengaluru development minister DK Shivakumar said discussions were held with AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, in charge of Karnataka, on the party's strategy for GBA polls. "I've instructed officials on a few issues. We will announce major guarantees for Bengaluru city alone and more details on these guarantees on May 13," Shivakumar told reporters Monday.

The announcement has triggered political discussion within Congress circles, with GBA polls seen as a crucial political test for the party in Bengaluru. Party leaders are reportedly working on promises focused on mobility, tax relief, waste management, water supply, housing and civic infrastructure — issues that have dominated public discourse in the city.

Two-corporation model gaining traction

State Election Commission's directive to conduct GBA polls between June 14 and 24 has sparked a fresh debate within Congress.

A section of functionaries is reportedly unhappy with the election schedule as state govt is waiting for the Supreme Court to decide on its plea for an additional three months to complete administrative and legal processes linked to restructuring of Bengaluru's civic administration.

A proposal to merge the five newly formed city corporations into two larger corporations — North and South — has gained traction. "There are concerns that four corporations may go in favour of the BJP-JDS alliance, and Congress may settle for Central if smaller parties such as SDPI and independents do not cut into the vote share. Such an outcome could politically weaken the Bengaluru leadership within the party," a senior Congress functionary said.

He added that issues such as unscientific ward delimitation and implementation of women's reservation could provide valid grounds for seeking an extension from the Supreme Court.

"All these concerns could be addressed by merging the five corporations into two, based on assembly segments through an ordinance and then holding polls. Such a move may help the Congress retain stronger administrative control over Bengaluru," the functionary explained.

Traffic curbs on ORR

Bengaluru: Motorists travelling on Tumakuru Road and Outer Ring Road (ORR) near CMTI Junction will face traffic diversions from May 14-21 to ease congestion along the busy stretch.

Vehicles heading towards Rajkumar Samadhi from SRS Junction side and Goraguntepalya side will be diverted to the right lane at CMTI Jn. TNN

Expo showcases innovation, emerging tech

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: MVJ College of Engineering Monday said it hosted its flagship academic event, Project Expo 2026, on May 9, bringing together student innovators, industry experts and academicians under the theme, Youth and Innovation: Building Modern India.

The event was held at Dr MV Jayaraman auditorium and featured projects from mechanical, computer science and electrical science streams.

The expo saw participation from 41 colleges across Karnataka and neighbouring states, with more than 250 projects presented. Around 60 projects were shortlisted for the final round after a multi-stage evaluation process.

Speakers said innovation, AI, entrepreneurship and emerging technologies aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. A book, Engineering Tomorrow: A Compendium of Youth Innovations, was released during the inaugural session. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony carrying a total cash prize pool of Rs 2 lakh.

TIMES interact
Connecting People, Connecting Needs.
To book your ad | Logon to: ads.timesofindia.com or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free) | Scan QR Code

real estate
FOR SALE
BANGALORE

SALE BDA Site no 308 Anjanapura 5th Blk SW Corner, 40x60 Commercial @18k sqft, & Site 110 3rd A Blk, @14sqft NE Corner, call Owner Rajesh 9845167755

PROPERTY for sale in indiranagar bangalore North facing near metro station 40×45. Contact: 9343536595/ 9449446803

GOA PROPERTIES

LAND FOR SALE

SOUTH Goa Cuncolim for sale Plot size 1225 sq meter at 20500 per sq meter Contact 9963998895

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

TEACHER

WANTED: Teachers in all subjects. Engineering Graduates can also apply. Ph. 9242484476, send Bio data to email: info16bfet@gmail.com

OTHER VACANCIES

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

SINGAPORE Training Certification for SSLC & above in Hospitality, Hotel Mgmt, Retail, Supply Chain, Events & Tourism. Paid stipend + global experience. call 6362177312 , t&c apply

PART TIME JOBS

SEMINAR on Part-time Job Opportunity For Retd/ VRS/House-wife/Self-employed in Bangalore by a Reputed MNC. Call: 8861791147

education

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

FALIED? /DISCONTINUED Join Final PUC, BA, BCom, BBA, BCA, BSc, MBA, MA, MCom, PhD, LLB, D.Pharma, BEd, MEd, BE, ME: 77608 88670

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Notice hereby given that the Original Sale Deed bearing BNG(O)-BLR(S)/21704/2004-05/1-9 dated13th-November-2004 executed between Mr. K.Boopathy and Mr. Madathil Abdul Khadar & P.T. Subharabeebi, registered at Sub-Registrar Office Anekal, Bangalore has been lost on 7th-May-2026. The report of the same has been lodged at the Hulimavu Police Station on 8th-May-2026 vide report no LRN2192913/2026.

If found, kindly inform Brig. V.V.Raghavan at 5, Royal Hermitage, Gottigere, mobile number 9611325050.

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Safe and Secure Online Marketing Pvt Ltd., a company in the business of Direct Selling with office at A-3/24, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, sells quality products under its registered brands through its website www.safeshopindia.com Products are manufactured by reputed collaborative manufacturers. The company fully complies with all laws. The company does not engage in chit funds, investments, money collection, or any entrepreneurship schemes. It disowns all fraudulent offers, lottery claims, or misleading communications asking for money or personal details. Purchases are allowed only through the official website with digital payments and there is no minimum purchase required. No cash, cheque or DD is accepted. Official communication & training channels: -Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/directdilsesafeshop -YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@safeshopindia2000 The company disowns any other similar channels or videos. Public is cautioned not to be misled by fraudsters.
Chander M. Maini
Advocate & Solicitor (Safeshop)

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is notified that, 2400 Sqft. Site No. 5AM/221 in 2nd Block HRBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560043, under sale from legal heirs of Rangaswamaiah. M to VIVID INFRA. For objections call us on - 9844331710.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, Amitesh Kumar and Sweta Singh, resident of #218, Sumadhura Sawan, Block-1, ITPL Road, Near Euro School, Hoodi, Mahadevpura, Bangalore 560048 Karnataka, do hereby declare that we have changed our Son's name from Naman (old name) to Naman Anand (new name), vide affidavit no. 725, dated 11/5/2026 sworn before the Notary J. Anand Kumar Bangalore and henceforth he shall be known as Naman Anand in all purpose, including Passport.

I, Sangeeth Bhadran Balabhadran Satheedevi, residing at F021, Assetz Marq, Kannamangala, Bengaluru - 560115, do hereby declare that I have changed the name of my minor daughter from Anushmita Sreevidya Sangeeth to Anushmita Sangeeth for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 6th May 2026 sworn before the Notary Public Rajanna.S.M, Bengaluru.

I, Sangeeth Bhadran Balabhadran Satheedevi, residing at F021, Assetz Marq, Kannamangala, Bengaluru - 560115, do hereby declare that I have changed the name of my minor daughter from Arushi Sreevidya Sangeeth to Arushi Sangeeth for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 6th May 2026 sworn before the Notary Public Rajanna.S.M, Bengaluru

I, Baishali Sharma spouse of Rishu Sharma, residing at C/O Late BB Chowdhary Opp. electric Sub Station Rest Camp Pandu Guwahati Kamrup Metro Assam -781012 have changed my name from BAISHALI SHARMA to BAISHALI DAS vide Affidavit Dt: 15/04/2026, sworn before Notary Sivakumara M N, Bangalore.

I, SHAIKH VASEEM, Residing at Dasihalli Ganganghatta post, Tiptur (TQ), Tumkur (district), Karnataka-572201, I have changed my name as SHAIK VASEEM SHAIK To SHAIKH VASEEM, Vide Affidavit sworn before Notary K.R. UMESH, Tiptur, Date 29-04-2026

I, Harisha M.M, F/o Jnanisha M.H, R/at #11, 7th Main, A.D.Halli, Bengaluru-79, have changed my daughter's name from M.H.Jnanisha to Jnanisha M.H vide affidavit dated: 09.05.2026 before notary Deepa.M, B'lore.

I, Harisha M.M, F/o Hemanth Machaiah M.H, R/at #11, 7th Main, A.D.Halli, Bengaluru-79, have changed my son's name from M.H.Hemanth Machaiah to Hemanth Machaiah M.H, vide affidavit dated: 09.05.2026 before notary Deepa.M, B'lore.

I Samiran Kumar Sunilchandra Biswas Age 41, R/O Bren unity, Bangalore, Karnataka, have changed my name to Samiran Kumar Biswas vide Affidavit Sworn dated 9-5-26 before notary Ganesh Gowda.

I, M.H.Sunitha, W/o Harisha M.M, R/at #11, 7th Main, A.D.Halli, Bengaluru-79, have changed my name from Sunitha M.H to M.H.Sunitha, vide affidavit dated: 09.05.2026 before notary Deepa.M, B'lore.

LOST & FOUND

I, Prakash Raman, residing at A4, 505, Elita Promenade apartment, J.P Nagara 7th Phase, have lost Sale Deed, No. JPN-1-02848-2009-10 at Elita Apartment, JP Nagara. Finders please Contact: 9900824684

BOOK YOUR PROPERTY ADS
CALL : 18001205474 (Toll Free)
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO Ads.timesofindia.com

LICENSED ENTITY
SYNDICATE FINANCE
www.syndicatefinance.in
Estd. 1977
BUSINESS LOAN
Against mortgage of immovable property
Long Term & Easy Instalment Facilities.
Pioneering a New Era of Smart Lending for Corporates & MSMEs
Scan For Details
(022) 6581 0001 / 3565 7754 / 3565 7941
E-mail : info@syndicatefinance.in
428, Rawal Bldg. No. 1, 1st Floor Lamington Road, Mumbai-400 004
Contact : 11 am to 5 pm

ADMISSION NOTICE

ಲಿಟಲ್ ಎಲಿ littleelly.com
Little Elly A Happy Preschool
Because H.A.P.P.Y. Children Learn Better
2026-27
ADMISSIONS OPEN
Playgroup | Kindergarten
Nursery | Daycare
120+ Centres in Bangalore
22+ Years of Shaping Early Education
A brand of LEARNING EDGE INDIA
Call for Admissions & Franchise
Little Elly Near Me
+91 81233 12025
Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka | Maharashtra | Tamil Nadu | Telangana | Dubai

TO PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS SECTION PLEASE CALL
CALL : 18001205474 (Toll Free)
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO Ads.timesofindia.com
EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE
SCAN QR CODE

R.E.S. POLYTECHNIC
Estd: 1986 - Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka & AICTE
10th Pass / What Next ???
JOIN DIPLOMA IN: ♦ Computer Science ♦ IS ♦ Civil ♦ Mechanical ♦ Automobile ♦ Electrical ♦ Electronics ♦ Fashion Tech ♦ Commerce (CP)
After Diploma can join JOB / 2nd year Engg OR Any Degree through LATERAL ENTRY QUOTA
PUC Pass Join 2 yrs Diploma Engineering
PUC Fail Join 3 yrs Diploma Engineering
EVENING / WEEKEND CLASSES
Available for working Professionals to EE
5, Sunkadakatte, Magadi Road, Hegganahalli Cross, B-91
Call: Secretary-99166 46466 / Principal-9916639466
RES-26701

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

Relatives blame doctors as woman dies after tubectomy

Ranganath K | TNN

Relatives alleged that complications arose during surgery after Narmada's small intestine was accidentally damaged. Following this, another surgeon at the hospital performed a corrective procedure on her

Tension prevailed near Govt Mother and Child hospital in Chintamani, Chikkaballapur district, Monday after relatives of a 23-year-old woman, who died days after undergoing a tubectomy, refused to accept her body and demanded action against doctors concerned.

Narmada, a resident of Batlahalli village in Chintamani taluk, was admitted to hospital on April 23 for the procedure. According to hospital sources, the surgery was conducted the following morning.

Relatives alleged that complications arose during the surgery after Narmada's small intestine was accidentally damaged. Following this, another surgeon at the hospital performed an emergency corrective procedure. Narmada was kept under observation at the hospital for nearly two weeks. She was discharged on May 7 after doctors told the family that her condition was stable. However, relatives said she developed severe lower back pain Sunday evening and was rushed back to the hospital, where doctors declared her dead. The death triggered protests by family members and villagers, who accused the hospital authorities of negligence.

Obalesh, Narmada's husband, alleged the family was initially told an "infection" had developed after the procedure. "Later, another doctor informed us her small intestine was damaged during the operation. Even after that, we trusted the doctors because they assured us she was recovering well. Before discharge from the hospital, they said she was healthy and promised to take care of any future complications. But she died just two days later," he claimed.

Hospital administrative officer Dr Santosh denied any negligence and said the damage to Narmada's intestine had been detected and treated immediately. "The surgeon performed another operation after the issue was noticed. She was kept under observation until the wounds healed and was discharged only after doctors were satisfied with her recovery," he said. He added the exact cause of death would be known only after postmortem report.

Tax search powers are person-centric: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Section 132 of the Income-tax Act, which empowers tax authorities to conduct search and seizure operations, is person-centric and not premises-centric, the high court specified in its recent judgment.

A division bench of Justices SG Pandit and KV Aravind allowed a writ appeal filed by the income-tax department and restored notices issued under Section 153C of the Act, which empowers tax authorities to assess or reassess the income of a person (third party) other than the "searched person".

On Sept 14, 2017, a search was conducted on the premises of CR Ram Mohan Raju on the suspicion that the books of account, documents and other valuable articles belonging to one K Narayan Raju were kept there.

The assessing officer of Narayan Raju initiated proceedings and recorded that the seized documents belonged to Mohan Raju and accordingly handed over the material to the latter's assessing officer. The assessing officer of Mohan Raju issued a notice under Section 153C of the Act for the assessment years 2011-12 to 2018-19.

The notice was challenged in the writ petition on the ground that since the premises of Mohan Raju had been searched, he ought to have been treated as a "searched person".

The court held that the warrant of authorisation is, therefore, fundamentally person-specific, while the place of search is merely incidental to such satisfaction.

Wheelchair-bound convict's sentence reduced to one day

Bengaluru: Taking note of the physical condition of a 79-year-old man, convicted in an accident case and who came to court in a wheelchair, the high court reduced his sentence to one day's imprisonment, but increased the fine.

"The sentence needs to be modified by directing the petitioner to undergo simple imprisonment for the day till the rising of the court and by paying an enhanced fine amount of Rs 5 lakh, though the concept of 'blood money' is alien to Indian criminal jurisprudence," Justice V Srishananda observed in his order, released on April 15, while partly allowing the petition filed by Syed Saifuddin.

Appearing before the court in a wheelchair, Saifuddin volunteered to pay Rs 5 lakh in compensation to the family of Lakshmi, the deceased woman.

A resident of Mysuru, Saifuddin was sentenced to one year in prison and ordered to pay Rs 7,500 in the rash and negligent driving case. On July 28, 2012, Saifuddin was test-driving a car, which hit a motorcyclist and killed the pillion rider at KRS Ring Road in Mysuru. In 2018, the trial court convicted him, and the appellate court upheld his conviction and sentence. TNN

Fuel, power, LPG: Here's how to soften the monthly shock

Domestic energy prices remain volatile, but you can switch to green alternatives to protect your household budget

Yasmin.Hussain@timesofindia.com

Every time Rajat Grewal fills up his Mahindra Thar in Delhi, it costs him around Rs 3,000. He does it roughly twice a month. That's over Rs 5,500 a month just on diesel. And that's before global crude prices have fully filtered through to the pump.

About 900km away in Ahmedabad, Kunjan Bhavsar hasn't paid an electricity bill in months. His rooftop solar system, installed in 2024, generates more than his household uses. His system will pay for itself in five to six years.

Two households. Two very different relationships with energy costs.

India's retail fuel prices have stayed relatively stable so far, cushioned by govt policy. But that buffer may not last. Global crude prices remain volatile, LPG cylinders are exposed to international rates, and electricity tariffs tend to follow, albeit with a lag. The question isn't whether household energy costs will rise; it's how much they will rise and how prepared you are.

The good news is there are practical steps most households can take. An electric vehicle (EV), a rooftop solar system, or even just an induction cooktop can meaningfully reduce your exposure. But each comes with upfront costs, trade-offs, and a payback period worth understanding before you commit.

Does Converting To EV Make Sense?

EVs are increasingly being seen as a practical way to reduce exposure to rising fuel costs, especially for households with regular daily travel. Some users are also exploring EV retrofitting as a lower-cost alternative to buying a new electric car, although the market remains niche and evolving. The cost advantage of EV becomes clearer when compared on a per-kilometre basis.

"Petrol and diesel cars cost roughly Rs 6.6 per km to run, compared with around Rs 1.2 per km for EVs charged at home," according to Hari Krishna, CEO, Green Drive Mobility. That's five times cheaper to run than internal combustion engine vehicles.

At current prices, annual fuel expenses for regular urban users can reach about Rs 85,000 for petrol cars and Rs 1.2 lakh for diesel ones in Delhi. Even a modest increase in fuel prices can meaningfully push up this annual expense. Some experts expect the impact to be much larger in case the tensions increase. "If tensions worsen and crude sustains near elevated levels, fuel could rise up to 10%," says Harshal Dasani, business head, INVasset PMS.

Ankit Mathur, co-founder, Greenway Grameen says, "A 15-20% rise won't be unreasonable in the worst case scenario."

Electricity, by comparison, is likely to see a much more moderate impact.

Impact on your wallet

If you drive one car daily and consume 1.5-4 litres of fuel in Delhi (Petrol: ₹94.77; diesel: ₹87.67)

Category	Current annual cost	Moderate increase	Worst scenario (+20%)
Petrol (car)	₹51,100 – ₹85,000	₹53,800 – ₹89,700	₹61,400 – ₹1.02 lakh
Diesel (car)	₹63,000 – ₹1,26,000	₹66,600 – ₹1.33 lakh	₹75,700 – ₹1.51 lakh
Electricity (household)	₹24,000	₹26,400	-

Note: Estimates based on experts' views

Kunjan Bhavsar
Ahmedabad

- Solar panel installed: May 2024
  Capacity: 3.3 kW rooftop on grid solar
- Installation cost and subsidy
  Total installation: ~ ₹1.8 lakh
- Govt subsidy: ₹78,000
  Net cost to user: ₹1.1–1.2 lakh
- Net metering & billing
  Bhavsar is under a net metering system with Torrent Power:
  Excess solar power purchase rate: ₹2.25/units
- Pre-solar electricity expense
  Annual electricity bill (before solar): ₹20,000–₹22,000
  Monthly average: ₹0–₹1,000

Govt Policies Help EVs...

Govt subsidies and low maintenance costs have further improved the appeal of EVs. In Delhi, you can get up to Rs 1 lakh scrappage linked subsidy on purchase of your new car. However, the economics depend heavily on how the vehicle is used. The cost advantage is most pronounced when charging is done at home, where tariffs are lower. Public fast charging, in contrast, can significantly increase running costs.

...But Infrastructure's Inadequate

Charging infrastructure remains uneven across cities, making EVs more suitable for predictable urban travel than long-distance driving. Insurance premiums are also higher, resale values remain uncertain, and battery replacement outside warranty can be expensive.

An EV can add at least 200 units per month to a household's electricity consumption, translating into an annual cost of around Rs 12,000 at Rs 5 per unit. Even with this rise, total running cost remains much lower than petrol or diesel for comparable usage. This is advantageous for households that already have, or are planning to install, rooftop solar systems.

Solar Panels

Rooftop solar is increasingly being seen as a way to reduce electricity bills and protect against future tariff hikes. Bhavsar is very satisfied with his decision of installing a solar panel as he is relieved that even if the tariff increases, he is safeguarded by his rooftop system. "During the low consumption months, I have paid zero electricity bill and even get credits ranging from Rs 1,000-2,000," he says.

Upfront Cost Vs Long-term Savings

Domestic energy storage solutions company Livguard shares with *ET Wealth* that the upfront cost of a rooftop on-grid solar system typically ranges from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2.2 lakh for a 3 kW system, and Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 3.2 lakh for a 5 kW system. In Bhavsar's case, the installation cost for 3.3kW on grid panel was around Rs 1.8 lakh, which reduced to about Rs 1.2 lakh after subsidies.

An additional benefit comes from net metering. Under this system, surplus electricity is exported back to the grid and credited to the consumer's account. In the last two months, Bhavsar earned around Rs 1,200 from surplus generation. Within another about five to six years, he says he would break even.

Govt subsidies further improve affordability. Under PM Surya Ghar Yojana, households can receive subsidies of up to Rs 78,000 for rooftop solar installations. In ideal conditions, particularly for households with higher electricity consumption and favourable tariffs, the payback period can be as low as three to six years.

According to Livguard, however, for many urban households, the typical payback period ranges from six to 10 years, depending on usage patterns, system cost, and performance. That said, solar does not make financial sense for every household. Its viability depends on factors such as roof ownership, available space, consumption levels, and local electricity tariffs. For low-consumption households or renters, the savings may not justify the upfront investment.

The Kitchen Switch

LPG remains the primary cooking fuel. It is also among the most exposed to global price shocks. "Households should prepare for structurally higher LPG costs. An increase of Rs 300-400 per domestic cylinder would not be unreasonable over a period of time," says Mathur. He advises households to combine LPG with electric cooking for routine tasks. Induction cooking is increasingly being used for routine tasks such as boiling water, cooking rice and reheating food.

However, this is not a complete replacement for LPG. Many traditional cooking methods are still better suited to gas. As a result, most households are unlikely to switch entirely but may begin to split usage between the two sources.

This gradual shift does not dramatically reduce overall expenses, but it can help stretch LPG consumption and delay refills, especially at a time when cylinder prices remain volatile.

Late filing need not cost you your health claim

Preeti.Kulkarni@timesofindia.com

Health insurers usually stipulate timelines within which policyholders must intimate claims and submit supporting documents after hospitalisation. For policyholders already coping with treatment-related anxiety, keeping track of documentation deadlines is not always easy. Yet, even a minor delay in filing paperwork can sometimes lead to repudiation, despite the claim being otherwise admissible under the policy. Lawyers and consumer rights experts argue that procedural delays should not automatically extinguish a genuine claim, especially when the insurer does not otherwise dispute its validity or admissibility.

IRDAI's Stance On Delayed Filing

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) Protection of Policyholders' Interests regulations, 2024, are clear that insurers should not reject or close claims merely for want of documents or delayed intimation. The IRDAI had, even in 2011 and 2017, issued circulars asking insurers to refrain from mechanically rejecting genuine claims on the grounds of late submission of documents, especially if the delay was due to unavoidable reasons.

"As per IRDAI, the timeline is necessary for maintaining discipline, but if the claimant provides a valid reason for the delay, such claims should be considered," says Shilpa Arora, co-founder and chief operating officer, Insurance Samadhan, a firm that helps customers resolve their grievances. She adds that if free hand were to be given on timelines, all policyholders would take advantage of the lenient rules.

Submission Delayed, Claim Rejected

A recent Bombay high court ruling has now brought these issues into sharp focus. Mumbai resident C P Ravindranath Menon, an employee of the Export-Import Bank of India, and his wife, Sindhu, faced a similar predicament in 2022. Their health insurance claims under the employer's group health cover were rejected by public sector major, United India Insurance. Amounting to Rs 1.13 lakh, these claims pertained to the policy period between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

The company argued that per the terms of the policy, bills more than 90 days old cannot be reimbursed. The Bombay HC ruled in favour of the petitioners on April 20, 2026 and asked the insurer to reimburse the amount within eight weeks, and also pay interest at 6% per annum.

"The insurance policy provided a 90-day cut-off and various other cut-off timelines. Claim submission was beyond these, and the insurer enforced these cut-off timelines, saying the right to claim was extinguished. These clauses have been held to be void by the judgment in view of Section 28(b) of the Contract Act and the Supreme Court judgment in the Oriental Insurance case," says advocate Subit Chakrabarti of law firm Vidhii Partners, who represented Menon in the case.

Lawyers contend that a delay in paperwork cannot invalidate a legitimate claim. "The expenses were well within the coverage, including the post-hospitalisation window. The rejection was solely on the ground of delay in submission, which the court rightly held cannot defeat a valid claim. The key point here is that the genuineness and admissibility of the claim were never in doubt," says Sulaiman Bhimani, founder & managing partner, The Law Suits, and president, Citizens Justice Forum.

From policyholders' perspective, it is now clear that, barring any prejudice or fraud, they do not lose the right to claim settlement merely on account of delay. "The wider implication is that insurers will now need to assess claims on merits rather than hide behind technical delay objections, especially in health insurance where policyholders are often dealing with medical distress rather than paperwork," says Shiv Sapra, partner, Kochhar & Co. Arora of Insurance Samadhan, however, is less optimistic. "Insurers will continue to refuse to pay the claim at the first instance by referring to the terms of the contract. Only well aware claimants will escalate the matter and are likely to obtain claim settlement. However, in our experience, only about 20% of policyholders take this route," she says.

Recourse For Policyholders

For any grievance against your insurer, your first stop ought to be the company's internal complaint resolution mechanism, including writing to the designated grievance redressal officer. Next, you can file a complaint through IRDAI's Bima Bharosa portal. You can also approach the insurance ombudsman directly, either online or by physically submitting your complaint at the quasi-judicial body's offices located in most major cities. Finally, if all else fails, policyholders can approach consumer courts and higher courts.

Brought to you by
The Economic Times wealth
Simple ways of making money

Get the complete *ET Wealth* magazine at ₹8 per copy delivered every Monday
From smart tax strategies and investment insights to insurance, retirement planning and estate decisions, *ET Wealth* helps you make informed financial choices every week.
SCAN and SUBSCRIBE

ASK THE EXPERTS

Can I claim long-term capital gains exemption in the same financial year if I buy a new apartment before selling my existing property? —*Kailash Agarwal*

Yes, as per Section 54 of the Income Tax Act, you can claim long-term capital gains (LTCG) exemption even if you purchase the new residential property before selling the existing one, provided you meet the specified conditions and timelines laid down under the section. The law permits purchasing a replacement home up to one year prior to the sale date of your original asset. Doing both within the same financial year simplifies tax reporting, as you can offset gains against your prior investment in one ITR filing. To qualify, the original property must have been held for at least 24 months. The "buy first, sell later" strategy is perfectly valid as long as the one-year window rule is followed. It's an easy way to transition homes without losing tax benefit.

Umesh Kumar Jethani
Founder, ApkiReturn

I have a DDA flat since 2008, which is leasehold. I now want to sell it. Is it mandatory to convert it to freehold? Do I need the signature of the original allottee? — *Kushal Kumar Bhatia*

Conversion from leasehold to freehold isn't legally mandatory, but it is practically essential for a smooth sale. Leasehold transfers need DDA approval and come with stricter conditions. Buyers and banks prefer freehold for clearer title and full ownership, so leasehold properties often sell at a discount and take longer to close. As of March 2026, DDA has suspended fresh leasehold-to-freehold conversion applications from Jan 2, 2026, pending a review of charges. Applications filed before the cut-off with fees paid will be processed at old rates. Regarding the signature of the original allottee, if the flat has already been mutated in your name, you do not need the original allottee's signature. You can apply directly and sign the required affidavits and indemnity bond yourself. If the mutation is still pending in your name, the involvement of the original allottee is usually required. In such cases, DDA asks for the complete chain of title documents linking back to the original allottee.

Vikash Jain
Co-founder, Share Samadhan

Please send your queries to *toiwealthplus@timesofindia.com*, mentioning your full name and city of residence.

Nippon India Mutual Fund
Wealth sets you free

Choose a Mutual Fund that follows sustainable and ethical investing.

Always invest consciously. Because responsible investing methods inspire companies to be eco-friendly and socially conscious. What's good for all, in the long run, will turn out to be better for you too.

Pick a Mutual Fund with Strong Processes and Risk Management. These are important for you to achieve your goals steadily and sustainably.

mf.nipponindiaim.com/EdgeOfKnowledge

Contact your Mutual Fund Distributor or Investment Advisor I Give us a missed call on **8000112244**

An investor education and awareness initiative of Nippon India Mutual Fund.

Helpful information for Investors: All Mutual Fund investors have to go through a one-time KYC (Know Your Customer) process. Investors should deal only with registered mutual funds, to be verified on SEBI website under 'Intermediaries/ Market Infrastructure Institutions'. For redressal of your complaints, you may please visit https://scores.sebi.gov.in. For more info on KYC, change in various details & redressal of complaints, visit mf.nipponindiaim.com/investoreducation/what-to-know-when-investing

Nippon India Mutual Fund, MF/022/95/1

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

rediffusion.in

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

OMAR SAYS J&K LIQUOR SHOPS SERVE COMMUNITIES THAT ALLOW DRINKING; ILTIJA CITES GUJ, BIHAR BANS

SC REFUSES TO INTERFERE WITH HC ORDER FOR CBI PROBE AGAINST TN EX-MINISTER SENTHIL BALAJI

HACK OF THE DAY — **ASK GEMINI ACROSS YOUR GOOGLE APPS**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you find details buried across Gmail, Calendar, Maps, YouTube, and Photos without opening each app separately

WHAT TO DO: Use Gemini connected apps when you want AI help with your own Google information, where the feature is available

STEPS:

1. **Open** the Gemini app or Gemini website
2. **Check** that the relevant Google apps are connected or allowed
3. **Ask** a specific question, such as "Find my hotel booking" or "What time is my next meeting?"
4. **Follow up** with an action, such as creating a calendar event or finding directions
5. **Verify** important times, addresses, bookings, and amounts in the original app before acting

CAREFUL: This is powerful because it uses personal context. Review connected-app permissions and avoid using it on shared devices

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

2016 Ambedkar press demolition: Bombay HC slams police inaction

The Bombay high court recently expressed its shock over the police lapse in failing to halt what appeared to be an illegal demolition in 2016 of a historic Buddha Bhushan printing press at Dadar set up by Dr B R Ambedkar, reports **Swati Deshpande**. On April 30, Justices A S Gadkari and Kamal Khata said it was "deeply disturbing to read" a "thoughtless affidavit" (filed by an assistant commissioner of police). The ACP said, "His officers immediately reached the spot and ensured that necessary preventive and protective measures were undertaken". Saying the matter was serious, HC directed the Mumbai police chief to file within six weeks a detailed reply to Prakash Ambedkar's plea.

With a hug, Vijay, Stalin rewrite TN's history of political civility

Ram.Sundaram
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Change was at the core of TVK president C Joseph Vijay's election campaign. After his first day in assembly as chief minister on Monday, he signalled a pleasant change in political civility by visiting DMK president M K Stalin and other party leaders in their respective homes.

The warm gesture that brought smiles across party lines came a day after Vijay criticising the previous govt for accumulating huge debt and leaving the state treasury "empty". The day started with a 'cold war' as DMK legislative party leader Udhayanidhi Stalin did not even look at Vijay.

Hours later, however, as Vijay walked into Stalin's Cenotaph Road house, at the door was Udhayanidhi, waiting to receive the special guest with a hug. The CM and his predecessor, too embraced, marking a positive deviation from bitterness that had marked TN politics for long.

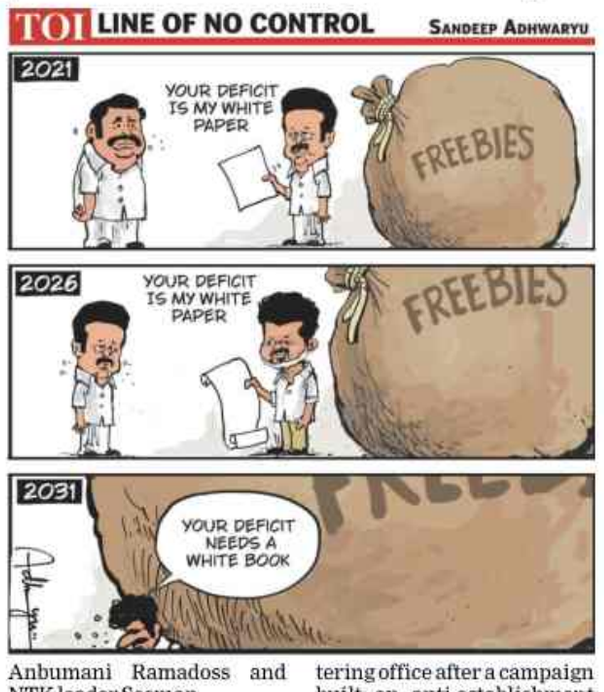
Holding his hand, Stalin took Vijay to the visitor's room where they spoke for about 15 minutes. Udhayanidhi, who was seated next to Vijay, gifted the CM a book titled 'Kaalathin Niram Karuppu Sivappu,' a collection of essays on DMK's history and Dravidian ideology. While TVK general secretary N Anand accompanied Vijay; senior DMK leaders were present at Stalin's house.

Stalin described the meeting as a gesture of political courtesy. "I extended to him my heartfelt congratulations as well as my advice," he posted on X. The meeting marked the first known instance since 1967 of a newly sworn-in Tamil Nadu chief minister visiting a former chief minister at his residence immediately after assuming office. Leaders of DMK as well as other parties lauded the initiative.

From Alwarpet, Vijay travelled to Anna Nagar to meet MDMK general secretary Vaiko and MP Durai Vaiko at their residence. "He is the first chief minister to visit my home," Vaiko told reporters after the meeting. During the interaction, Vaiko introduced the workers at the house to Vijay, saying they too voted for TVK. He then visited the houses of PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss and NTK leader Seeman.

Vijay will likely travel to Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers Amit Shah and Nirmala Sitharaman, besides Congress leader Sonia Gandhi.

"For a chief minister entering office after a campaign built on anti-establishment messaging, the meetings are helping shape a second image — that of a leader seeking to build cooperation across political divides soon after assuming power," said political analyst R Chandrasekaran.



Cong calls former Kerala chiefs for brainstorming

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress Monday enlarged the consultation process to finalise the new chief minister of Kerala, amid growing suspense in the wake of a keen tussle for the top job between AICC general secretary KC Venugopal and leader of opposition VD Satheesan.

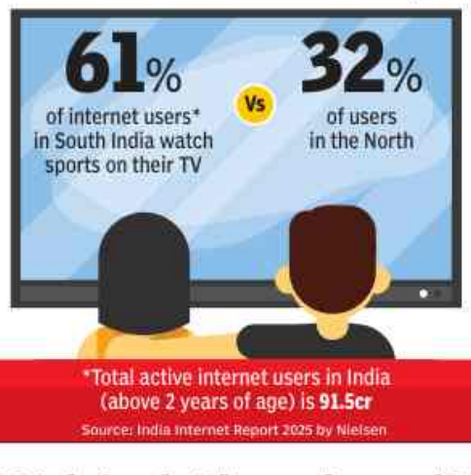
The party has called former state presidents – K Sudhakaran, K Muraleedharan, VM Sudheeran, MM Hassan – and some other state leaders for discussions with Congress president **Mallikarjun Kharge** and Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday. The top brass will speak to another former state chief Mullapally Ramachandran over the phone as he is unable to come to Delhi. It is assumed that Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has also given her views on the subject, as also veteran AK Antony.

The heightened anticipation is accompanied by speculations that Venugopal is likely to get the Kerala assignment. A Rahul Gandhi confidant, Venugopal has pitched his case by virtue of having the largest contingent of MLAs backing him. Satheesan, who spearheaded the party's charge against the Left front govt, is said to have told the leadership that he will not join the state govt if he is not made the CM.

The prolonged consultations suggest that the party fears a blowback in leaving out Satheesan, and is taking the pains to ensure that the final nominee is well received. Many on social media have threatened protests, while others have said that any CM other than Satheesan would take the sheen off the landslide victory of UDF. Congress can ill afford such a situation as it will immediately have to face two byelections that would be necessitated by Venugopal quitting the Lok Sabha seat and contesting the assembly seat. A wider consultation process could be the leadership's way to ringfence itself from any blame that may arise after the final decision.

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

6 out of 10 from South India tune into smart TV for sports



*Total active internet users in India (above 2 years of age) is 91.5cr

Source: India Internet Report 2025 by Nielsen

PM recalls Pokhran-II tests, says no global pressure could bend India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Rajkot/Ahmedabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday recalled the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests, saying the BJP govt led by then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee had demonstrated that India would not bow to global pressure.

Addressing a gathering, Modi said the country conducted three nuclear tests in Pokhran on May 11, 1998. He said the tests showcased India's strength and capabilities before the world, triggering strong international reactions and sanctions.

"The world reacted with shock... Powerful nations across the globe turned against India and various restrictions were imposed. Every avenue for economic stability was sought to be blocked, raising fears of a major economic crisis," Modi said.

He said any country would have been shaken by such pressure, and the future appeared uncertain. "But we are made of different soil," the PM said, adding that despite mounting global pressure after the May 11 tests, India conducted two more nuclear tests on May 13, 1998. "That demonstrated to the world how unwavering India's political will was," Modi said. "...No power in the world can force India to bow down or surrender to pressure."

Modi reiterated his appeal for economic prudence, urging citizens to reduce dependence on imported goods, conserve fuel and foreign exchange, and turn "Vocal for Local" into a mass movement.

Modi to depart for five-nation tour Friday

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi will depart for a five-nation tour on Friday, beginning with the UAE, said govt in an official announcement. Modi will visit the UAE, Sweden and the Netherlands on his way to Norway for the India-Nordic summit that was postponed last year in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

Modi will later also travel to Italy. During his stopover in the UAE, the PM will meet President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The two leaders will have the opportunity to exchange views on bilateral issues, including energy cooperation, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. This will be his first visit to a Gulf country since the war started on the West Asia region. TNN

Palaniswami's leadership claim sparks AIADMK rift

▶ Continued on page 1

Palaniswami's camp said his authority as party general secretary trumped rival claims. "Palaniswami argued before the pro-tem speaker that, as AIADMK general secretary, he alone was authorised to function as legislature party leader and that party rules support his claim," a source said.

Rebels hit back by insisting only a formal meeting of AIADMK MLAs could elect a legislature party chief. Their representation allegedly included signatures backing Velumani as floor boss. Secretariat sources said Karuppaiah was unlikely to rush a ruling, given competing claims and looming legal and political crossfire.

Founded in 1972 by former CM and matinee idol MG Ramachandran after a split in DMK and long regarded as one of the state's two principal Dravidian parties, Monday's showdown marked the third major fracture in AIADMK's history.

The party first split after MGR's death in 1987, when rival camps rallied behind his wife Janaki Ramachandran and protégé J Jayalalithaa. Another rebellion erupted after Jayalalithaa's death in 2016, when former CM O Panneerselvam broke ranks in 2017 before his eventual expulsion in 2022.

Since Jayalalithaa's death, AIADMK has struggled through factional feuds and electoral defeats, losing assembly polls in 2021 and suffering further erosion in Lok Sabha and state contests.

VB-G RAM G to replace MGNREGA from July 1

New Delhi: Moving to implement the new rural employment framework, the Centre on Monday notified July 1 as the date from when the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act 2025 will come into force. The UPA era Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 shall stand repealed from the same date.

Under the new framework, every rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work will be entitled to a guarantee of 125 days of wage employment instead of the 100 days under MGNREGA in every financial year. TNN

CPM defends Pinarayi, says it's wrong to single him out for defeat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: CPM general secretary MA Baby Monday said it was wrong to single out outgoing Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan for taking moral responsibility for the defeat in the state after 10 years in govt.

Baby's remarks came after a meeting of CPM's polit-bureau, during which the Kerala assembly poll outcome was discussed.

"Why should Pinarayi Vijayan be singled out to take moral responsibility for defeat in Kerala. Our party is a collective entity. He is the senior-most member in the politburo and central committee. When we went into polls as a collective we said that he is leading the campaign and if we get a majority we will decide on who will be the CM," Baby said while addressing reporters.

Dwelling on the overall impact of the assembly polls, Baby said the ascendency of the right reactionary forces is something that secular and democratic forces need to take note of with all seriousness.

Nehru resisted efforts to restore Somnath's grandeur: PM

Rajkot/Ahmedabad: Fresh from BJP's resounding victory in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi faulted his opponents, accusing them of placing appeasement politics above national pride and cautioning citizens against divisive and narrow-minded political thinking, reports **Tushar Prabhune**.

Participating in the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav marking 75 years of the temple's reconstruction, Modi said the rebuilding of the shrine symbolised India's determination to reclaim ists civilisational identity. He alleged that genuine efforts to reconstruct the temple had faced resistance from the then PM, Jawaharlal Nehru.

5 from Guj among 6 dead after car falls into HP gorge

Kullu: Six people, including five tourists from two Gujarat families, died and four were critically injured after their SUV plunged into a gorge in heavy rain in Bhattiyat area of Himachal's Chamba district early Monday. Two toddlers are battling for their lives.

The vehicle was on its way from Manali to Dalhousie when it skidded off the road near Kakira, 30km short of its destination, and fell into a 150ft-deep gorge. Police said the driver lost control because of the road conditions.

Five of the victims are from Bhavnagar — Lalit Bhai Fatnani and his wife Mamta Ben; Priyank Kanhaiya Bhopani, his wife Kajal and their son Diyansh. Driver Jaswant Kumar, from Jogindernagar in HP's Mandi district, also died.

Four people survived the crash but are critical — Priyank and Kalaj's daughter Priyanshi, 3, and Lalit Bhai Fatnani's son Mayank, daughter-in-law Koram Ben, and their son Jiyansh, 3. They were initially taken to a nearby health facility and then to Dr Rajendra Prasad GMCH in Tanda, 130km from the accident site.

Last month, four tourists died while 17 were injured when their vehicle fell into a gorge in Kullu district. TNN

NCW committee report on TCS Nashik finds 'pervasive sexual harassment, toxic workplace'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The report that has been submitted to CM Devendra Fadnavis has called for strict action under the relevant criminal provisions of the BNS

New Delhi: A fact finding panel of the National Commission for Women has found "zero compliance with POSH Act", "pervasive sexual harassment", "abuse of authority" and "religious insultations" at the Tata Consultancy Services Nashik branch after taking suo motu cognisance of serious allegations made by women employees of the office.

"The accused used to bully female employees by denigrating Hindu mythology, beliefs, traditions and practices and by impressing upon the girls that Islam was a far superior religion to Hinduism," the report said.

Highlighting a "toxic workplace environment", the NCW report that has been submitted to Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has called for strict action under the relevant criminal provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

"The most important factor which determined the course of events in the present case is the aKbsence of an effective mechanism for prevention and redressal of workplace harassment at the TCS Nashik unit," the report said.

A committee comprising retired Bombay high court judge Justice Sadhna Jadhav, former Haryana DGP B K Sinha, Supreme Court advocate Monika Arora and NCW senior coordinator Lilabati visited Nashik on April 18 and 19. They interacted with victims, members of the POSH Internal Committee (IC), police officers and other witnesses. Noting that the accused persons had assumed effective control of the TCS, Nashik, the report highlights that "the complainants were indeed sexually harassed, attempts of molestation at the hands of the accused persons".

The report observed that many women employees wished to lodge complaints but were afraid to do so.

Ludhiana man shoots son dead in public, dies by suicide

Payal.Dhawan
@timesofindia.com

Ludhiana: An ex-Serviceman who worked as a bank security guard chased his son down a crowded street in Ludhiana and shot him dead Sunday night. Then, he went home and died by suicide. Police weren't sure what triggered the family tragedy and were hoping that the former Havildar's daughters could offer some clues.

Residents of New Agar Nagar were stunned when taxi driver Gursharan Singh alias Ginni, 38, burst out of his home in panic around 9pm Sunday. His father, Surinder Singh, 67, was seen chasing after him, gun drawn. The deadly pursuit went on for at least 500m before Surinder closed in on his son and shot him twice, killing him on the spot, police said.

When locals rushed to help Ginni, his father turned on his heels, ran back into the house and bolted the door. "We were told that a man had been shot. A team went to New Agar Nagar and took the victim to the hospital, where he was declared dead. When cops went to his house, the main gate was bolted from within. Nobody answered the persistent knocks, forcing police to break in," Vijay Chaudhary, SHO Sarabha Nagar PS, said.

Surinder was found unconscious in bed, frothing at the mouth, said the SHO. Police took him to hospital and registered a murder case against him. He died during treatment.

Surinder had fired a shot inside the house and two more at his son, indicating that he had reloaded the double-barreled gun during the fatal chase.

Locals told police that the father and son would quarrel very often. Surinder's wife died in 2019, and his two daughters were settled abroad — one in London and the other in Canada.

Some neighbours claimed that the father and son would fight over Surinder's alleged friendship with a woman.

TIMES TRIBUTE
PAYING HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL

To book your ad | Logon to: ads.timesofindia.com or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)

OBITUARY

REMEMBRANCES

Sad Demise

SHRI K KANDASWAMY

(22.10.1944-11.05.2026)

We sadly announce the passing of Shri K. Kandaswamy on 11th May 2026.

Cremation date/time: 12th May 2026 4:00PM
Cremation location: Kalpalli Crematorium. Bangalore

Wife
Sundari

Sons
Satish and Gokul

Contact: 9845800811/9845827278

TO BOOK AN OBITUARY AD

PLEASE CALL
18001205474
(Toll Free)

TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
Ads.timesofindia.com

Scan QR Code

ETERNAL MEMORY

Dr. CHOWDA REDDY
M.B.B.S, D.T.C.D
Expired on: 12:05:2001

Twenty-five springs have passed by, but your noble life continues to be our inspiration and strength. Your values shape our path, guiding every thought and action.

Though beyond our sight, your light shines in our hearts, guarding our steps and giving us hope through every day and night.

CS Umadevi and family

REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

52nd Year Remembrance
1899- 1974
Late SRI M.L. MANJANATHA SETTY
"Time has gone by, but Memories of you are still fresh"
M.M.Anandaram, Late M.M. Sampath Kumar, Late M. Lachia Setty, M.M. Panduranga, M.M.Parthasarathi, Daughters-in-law, Sons-in-law, Daughters, Grand Children & Great Grand Children.
"YOU WILL ALWAYS LIVE IN OUR HEARTS"

BOOK OBITUARY ADS

To book an Obituary Ad
Please contact:
Bharat
7760833522

TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
Ads.timesofindia.com

SCAN TO BOOK

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE

PM repackaging failure as moral advice, says Cong

PM No Longer Able To Run Country: Rahul

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PM Modi's demands on dos and don'ts 'are not sermons but proof of failure'
RAHUL GANDHI
Congress LoP

New Delhi: Piling on PM Modi for asking people to adopt Covid-type austerity measures in wake of the West Asia crisis, opposition parties said the PM always seeks sacrifices from people to avoid accountability for his failures. They also accused him of duplicity and asked why was he claiming "all is well" during poll campaign just days ago.

Congress's Rahul Gandhi said the PM's demands on dos and don'ts "are not sermons but proof of failure". He said, "In 12 years, he has brought the country to such a pass that the public now has to be told what to buy, what not to buy, where to go and where not to go. Every time, they shift responsibility onto people so they can wriggle out of their accountability. The compromised PM is no longer able to run the country."

India's economy is in doldrums and the threat to food security is real, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge alleged. Party MP Manickam Tagore said, "Modi is repackaging economic failure as moral advice."

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav accused govt of spreading fear instead of using its endless resources to tide over the crisis. He asked why did Modi not remember the crisis when BJP leaders took thousands of chartered flights and stayed in hotels for campaigning.

'India managed to move 14 ships through Hormuz route during the period'

▶ Continued from page 1

Echoing the message, Mittal said, "At times of crisis, we need to remind ourselves that these fuels are expensive. If we can save on them, then that's dollars saved. This money can go into some development programmes which are productive for the nation, rather than being blown in the air." He added, "There are sufficient supplies. There is no rationing in place. It's not going to happen. India has been an oasis of comfort."

Mittal said India's large refining base had helped cushion supply shocks, meet domestic demand and allow exports of refined petroleum products. The IGoM, attended by several ministers, was informed that there is a surplus of essential commodities and the present conservation effort is directed at long-term capacity-building in case the crisis gets prolonged.

"India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. The foreign exchange reserves stand at a comfortable $703 billion. India is the world's third largest oil refiner and fourth largest exporter of petroleum products, exporting to more than 150 countries, and it is meeting domestic demand in full. But there is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels. Fuel conservation can ease this burden," a govt release said after the meeting.

Mittal said supply constraints through Strait of Hormuz since the war began were "a shade worse", but India had managed to move 14 ships through the key trade route during the period.

Reduction in special additional excise duty on petrol and diesel had prevented an increase in pump prices but created a Rs 1.6 lakh crore hole in govt revenue, he said.

Bengal BJP govt's 1st cabinet meet puts curbs on religious assemblies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PTI

West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari during a meeting, in Howrah, Monday

Kolkata: Bengal's first BJP govt moved at speed Monday, with CM Suvendu Adhikari issuing a dozen policing directives within hours of taking oath — from curbing loudspeaker sound beyond religious precincts to reopening over 1,300 post-poll violence cases. He also raised the upper age limit for govt jobs from 40 to 45 and announced free bus travel for women on state-run buses from June 1.

Adhikari communicated the policing orders at his first meeting with the police brass at the state secretariat Nabanna. An officer said the CM asked them to enforce the law "universally", including ensuring loudspeaker noise doesn't travel beyond any religious site and barring prayer congregations from blocking roads or causing public inconvenience, except on special occasions.

Religious leaders welcomed the loudspeaker and road-blocking curbs. "The law of the land must apply equally to every community, without discrimination or selective enforcement," said Nasser Ebrahim, trustee of the landmark Nakhoda Masjid at Chitpur in Kolkata's business district of Burrabazar. Jayanta Kushary, principal of Sarba Bhartiya Prachya Academy, said no scripture of any religion mandates the use of loudspeakers. "Religions must coexist with civic responsibility, public convenience and respect for the rights of others," he said. While ordering a fresh investigation into post-poll violence, the CM suggested an immediate crackdown on illegal possession of weapons.

"He instructed police to ensure arrests are based on FIRs linked specifically to post-election violence, hooliganism and extortion," an officer said.

'Studied together and dad would take teacher's role when I needed help'

▶ Continued from page 1

Back then, he couldn't have imagined that he and his daughter would write the Tripura Board of Secondary Education's Class 12 exam together at Pramodnagar Higher Secondary School in Jampuijala town of Sepahijala district.

"Whenever I encountered any challenge, my father was the first person I would go to. He may not have studied beyond Class 10 but he was always academically inclined. It was me who suggested he consider enrolling for higher secondary classes and, to my delight, he agreed," Ruma told **TOI**. "We would study the same subjects together, with him taking on the teacher's role when I needed assistance." The board exam results, declared last Friday, made father and daughter resolve to now go to college together.

"Losing my job made me feel helpless but studying was never far from my mind. When my daughter invited me to join her class, I seized the opportunity with confidence. Now, I am determined to complete my graduation," Dudhu said.

Board president Dhananjoy Ganchoudhury termed Dudhu and Ruma clearing the exam together an "extraordinary" achievement given their circumstances. "Their success should serve as inspiration for others struggling to continue their studies for various reasons."

Can't intimidate us with barbed wire, says B'desh, puts border force on alert

Ahsan Tasnim@timesofindia.com

Dhaka: Bangladesh cannot be intimidated with a "barbed wire", PM Tarique Rahman's foreign affairs adviser Humaiun Kobir said on Monday as the BJP govt in West Bengal in its first cabinet meeting decided to transfer land required by BSF for fencing the border.

"Let's wait and see if Suvendu Adhikari's govt follows his election rhetoric in governance," he added.

"The people of Bangladesh are not afraid of barbed wires nor is the govt of Bangladesh; where we need to talk, we will talk," he said.

On alleged "push-back" and killings, Humaiun said Bangladesh would not remain silent if people continued to be killed along the border. "Bangladesh has its own plans and responses. I hope matters will not proceed in that direction," he said.

Home minister Salahuddin Ahmed said Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has been placed on high alert amid developments following the Bengal polls.

Summon envoy over persecution, demands Jamaat

Dhaka: Days after BJP wins in Assam and West Bengal polls, allies of Jamaat-e-Islami — Bangladesh's largest Islamist political party — have alleged continuous persecution of Muslims across the border and that "anti-Bangladesh" forces would continue to "spread provocation, communalism and propaganda", reports **Ahsan Tasnim.** NCP convener and MP Nahid Islam recently said developments in India could have "implications" for Bangladesh.

UP-Bihar trail leads cops to 3 suspects in Bengal CM aide murder

Dwaipayan.Ghosh@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Bengal police's SIT has picked up an alleged sharpshooter from UP and two men from Bihar in the murder probe of CM Suvendu Adhikari's aide Chandranath Rath, who was gunned down in what police suspect was a contract killing barely 170m from his home in Madhyamgram on Kolkata's northeastern edge on May 6.

Police said suspects Mayank Raj Mishra and Vicky Maurya were detained in Bihar's Buxar, while Raj Singh was picked up in UP's Ballia Sunday. All three were brought to Kolkata, formally arrested, and produced before a court Monday, which sent them to police custody till May 24.

Investigators claimed Raj Singh could be the sharpshooter, though officers said his exact role was still under scrutiny. "The arrests happened on the basis of leads," an officer said, declining to identify masterminds or spell out precise roles of those arrested. "Nothing can be revealed till we question the accused further."

Special public prosecutor Bivas Chatterjee said investigators cracked a key lead after one of the accused made a UPI payment at a toll plaza while entering Kolkata. Police traced a registered mobile number linked to the transaction.

Bengal has a precedent for extending tenure of chief secys

▶ Continued from page 1

MP Sagarika Ghose wrote on X: "The so-called 'neutral umpire' is rewarded with the post of top bureaucrat of the BJP dispensation in Bengal. Does anyone still seriously believe Bengal polls were free and fair? Outrageous. Brazen."

Speculation over **Manoj Agarwal**'s elevation intensified earlier in the day after he was seated next to Adhikari during the cabinet meeting, while outgoing chief secretary Dushyant Nariala sat on the CM's other side. Bengal has a precedent for extending the tenure of chief secretaries beyond retirement age. Samar Ghosh, Hari Krishna Dwivedi, BP Gopalika, and Manoj Pant continued after turning 60. A mechanical engineering graduate, Agarwal began his administrative career as ADM in Burdwan and later handled personnel and administrative reforms, food and supplies, and fire and emergency services departments. He became additional chief secretary in the forest department in June 2024 before being appointed CEO 10 months later.

सीएसआईआर – केंद्रीय विद्युतरसायन अनुसंधान संस्थान
CSIR - CENTRAL ELECTROCHEMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कारैकुड़ी / Karaikudi-630 003.

Notification No. PS – 03/2026

ENGAGEMENT OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

An interview will be conducted at CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi on **21st and 22nd May 2026** for engagement to the positions of **Senior Project Associate** (04 Nos.), **Project Associate-II** (03 Nos.), **Project Associate-I** (36 Nos.) and **Project Assistant-II** (07 Nos.) against various projects, on purely temporary basis, to work at CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi.

Date of Commencement of ONLINE application: 08.05.2026
Last Date for submission of ONLINE application: 18.05.2026

For complete details and application, please visit the opportunity page of CECRI website **(https://www.cecri.res.in/)**

प्रशासनिक अधिकारी / **Administrative Officer**

Central Power Research Institute
(A Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Power)
Bangalore – 560 080

ADVERTISEMENT NO. CPRI/04/2026

CPRI invites applications for one (1) Project Manager **on purely temporary basis.** Interested candidates may refer website **https://cpri.res.in** for details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualification etc.

CBC 34104/11/0001/2627 — Chief Administrative Officer

SAHA INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS, KOLKATA
Autonomous institute under the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India and A Constituent Institution of Homi Bhabha National Institute- *a deemed to be university*

ADMISSIONS 2026

SINP/Estt/Advt/08/2026

Applications are invited from eligible candidates to join the Ph.D. Programmes in Physics and Biophysical Sciences starting August 2026. For eligibility and other details please visit our website **www.saha.ac.in**.
Online submission of application is to be made through our website (**www.saha.ac.in**). The website is open for online submission of application.

CBC 48135/11/0006/2627 — Registrar

11TH EDITION
PHARMAC SOUTH
11 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
Attention Pharma Companies
4 & 5 JUNE 2026
South India's Premier Pharmaceutical Exhibition & Conference
CHENNAI TRADE CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU
10000+ B2B visitors | 200+ Exhibitors | 10+ Industry Speakers
2 Days Knowledge-Packed Conference
Networking Hub | Business Expansion
FOR MORE DETAILS +91 9769292959
info@orbitexhibitions.com
SCAN TO EXHIBIT/VISIT
www.pharmacsouth.com
ORGANIZERS: Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association | Orbit Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd.
TRAVEL PARTNER: Tibro | Orbit — Expertise travels with you

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
CHENNAI UNIFIED METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (CUMTA)
MetroS, No.327, 7th floor, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.

Inviting applications for hiring professionals in CUMTA (Contract basis)

Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA), Government of Tamil Nadu was established through CUMTA Act, 2010. Applications are invited from qualified and experienced professionals for the following post on contract basis for a period of two years (renewable based on the performance).

S.No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post
1	Traffic and Transportation Engineer	1
2	Town Planner / Urban Planner	1

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the above post is available in the website - **www.cumta.tn.gov.in**. Interested candidates may apply with the detailed resume, portfolio, expected salary and pay-slip for the last 3 months on or before **30 - MAY - 2026** through CUMTA website

DIPR/390/DISPLAY/2026
Member Secretary
Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority

Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd.
(CIN U45203MH2002SGC136979)
RECRUITMENT
MADC invites applications from eligible candidates for various positions (on contractual basis) in the company.
For more Details visit **www.madcindia.org**. Details will be available on the website from **12/05/2026** from 13.00 hours.
Sd/-
Vice Chairman and Managing Director

HON'BLE JUSTICE S. P. TALUKDAR ONE MAN COMMITTEE
5, Council House Street, 2nd Floor, Kolkata - 700 001

Public Notice to Depositors of 34 Chit Fund Companies in addition to earlier 55 Chit Fund Companies

Further to the Public Notice dated 9th August, 2025 notifying reference of the MPS Group of Companies and 54 (Fifty-Four) other Chit Fund Companies to the Justice S.P Talukdar One Man Committee (the Committee) as per list published, it is further notified that the 34 (Thirty-Four) other Chit Fund Companies, whose names appear on the website, have been also referred to the Justice S.P Talukdar One Man Committee by the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta.

The Depositors/Investors may consult the Website of the Committee, given herein below for necessary information/ instructions,
www.justicesptalukdarcommittee.com
and
'Auction Notice under Recovery Proceedings' in 'Enforcement' tab on www.sebi.gov.in.

Place: Kolkata
Date: 12 May , 2026
Securities and Exchange Board of India
(on behalf of Justice S. P. Talukdar One Man Committee)

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOVT. OF INDIA
2 Days Government Certificate Course on
AI FOR BANKING FINANCE & LOAN
Course Duration 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 16 & 17 May 2026 Time : 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Course Content: AI fundamentals for Banking/NBFCs professionals, credit risk, Including credit analysis, Documentation, Risk Assessment, Regulatory Compliance, financial services, credit appraisal and underwriting, financial statement analysis, cash flow modeling, AI for - loan processing, portfolio risk monitoring, fraud detection, AI in compliance and regulatory reporting, policy and circular interpretation, automated drafting of credit and legal documents, conversational ai for internal banking systems, ethical and regulatory issues in banking ai, AI for finance for financial modeling and valuation analytics, mergers and, acquisition, capital budgeting and project appraisal.
Fees : Rs.3,540/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
Coordinator: 9818676612, 9818528498, 9686564246
Government of India certificate will be awarded

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process and Product Development Centre
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes
Online Training Program On
INTERNAL AUDIT
Integrated Management System (IMS)
(ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015, 45001:2018)
Course Content: Introduction about ISO, Principles of ISO standard, Detailed discussion on standards, Assessment of participants, Aspects and impacts, Quality - Environment - Occupational health and safety, Hazard identification and Risk assessment.
For Registration
Date: 16th - 30th May 2026 Time: 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees: 4,130/- (Inclusive of GST) Duration: (5 Days) (only Sat & Sun)
Contact: 9600776611, 8667359360, 7358887633
Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
E- Certificate will be Awarded

GANGADHAR MEHER UNIVERSITY
AMRUTA VIHAR, SAMBALPUR-768004 (ODISHA)
No. 2212 /GMU/2026 Date : 11.05.2026
RECRUITMENT NOTICE
With reference to Recruitment Notice No. 648/GMU/2026 dated 27.02.2026 and 855/GMU/2026 dated 27.02.2026 regarding appointment to the post of Assistant Professor/ Associate Professor/ Professor against regular sanctioned posts in various departments of Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur, it is hereby informed that the online application form, details of terms and conditions, etc., is available in the University website **(www.gmuniversity.ac.in).**
Opening Date of Online Application - 14.05.2026
Closing Date of Online Application - 14.06.2026
Sd/-
Registrar

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
(भा. अ. आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित)
(Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग के तहत स्वायत्त संस्थान
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Space, Govt. of India)
वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम 695 547, केरल / Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram 695 547, Kerala
NAAC A++ ACCREDITED
शैक्षिक वर्ष 2026 - 2027 के लिए स्नातकोत्तर कार्यक्रमों में प्रवेश
ADMISSION TO PG PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 27
केवल ऑनलाइन आवेदन ही स्वीकार किया जाएगा
Online Application only will be accepted
आईआईएसटी में स्नातकोत्तर कार्यक्रमों में प्रवेश दो तरीकों से होगा
Admission to PG programmes in IIST will be through two modes
स्कैन करें / Scan Here
(क) मशीन लर्णिंग एवं कंप्यूटिंग में एम.टेक: आईआईएसटी वेब पोर्टल के द्वारा
(A) M.Tech in Machine Learning and Computing: through IIST webportal **https://admission.iist.ac.in/**
आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि / **Last date to apply: 4th June 2026**
(ख) सभी अन्य शाखाएं : सी सी एम टी - 2026 के द्वारा
(B) All other branches: through CCMT - 2026.
कृपया वेबसाइट देखिए / Please visit ***https://ccmt.admissions.nic.in/***
जानकारी के लिए / For Queries: admissions@iist.ac.in
संपर्क सूत्र / Contact 0471- 2568477/ 618 (on working days 0900 - 1700 hrs)
डीन (शैक्षिकी) / Dean (Academics)

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110 029
EXAMINATION SECTION
Admission Notice No. 58/2026
AIIMS-Ph.D. PROGRAMME - JULY 2026 SESSION
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites Online applications for **Entrance Examination** through **online (CBT) mode** for admission in **Ph.D. Programme July 2026** session. The details are given below:

Date for Online Registration of application		
Name of Course	**Opens on**	**Closes on**
Ph.D. Programme	**28.04.2026**	**12.05.2026 at 05:00 PM**
Date of Entrance Examination		
Name of Course	**Date of Examination**	**Duration of Exam.**
Ph.D. Programme	**23.05.2026 (Saturday)**	**10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

Important : For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website **www.aiimsexams.ac.in**. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded on the website only.
Sd/-
ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS)
CBC 17112/11/0011/2627

Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation Limited
(A Government of Maharashtra PSU)
4th Floor, NaMTTRI Building, Adjoining New MMRDA Building, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai -400051.
Website: https://www.mmmocl.co.in/ OR https://mmrda.maharashtra.gov.in
The Applications are invited for filling the following post.

Sr No	Name of the post	No. of Post	Caste Category
1	Director (Infrastructure)	01	OPEN

Persons employed with Government / PSU's / Metro / Railway Corporation shall apply through proper channel and shall produce a 'No Objection Certificate' from their employers at the time of interview. For the detailed advertisement, such as showing the Eligibility, Qualifications and Experience, Pay Scales, and other instructions for filling the above post, please visit MMMOCL website: www.mmmocl.co.in (Careers Section) OR MMRDA website: https://mmrda.maharashtra.gov.in (Divisions → Administration → Recruitment). The last date for receipt of the application is **11th June, 2026.**
Sd/-
(Rubal Agarwal, IAS)
Managing Director, MMMOCL
Date: 12th May, 2026
Place: Mumbai

You are aware of the remedies: SC to TMC

▶ Continued from page 1

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said, "The grounds for filing election petitions to challenge the result of a constituency is known to all. Whatever ground is available lawfully you can take while filing election petitions." Justice Bagchi said, "Whatever you may say and allege that results may have been materially affected because of the number of deletions, which are under adjudication (before tribunals), that requires an independent application to be filed."

Senior advocate and TMC MP **Kalyan Banerjee** said, "I have brought a chart for 31 seats, where the loss margin is less than the number of appeals pending against deletion of names from voters list. In one seat, TMC candidate lost by 862 votes, but 5,432 vote deletions are under adjudication by the tribunal."

CJI Kant said, "Whatever you want to file, you file. Meanwhile, we will get some input from Calcutta HC chief justice. We can only improve the mechanism for speedy adjudication of appeals against deletion. Rest whatever must be done (filing of election petitions challenging electoral verdict), you are aware of the remedies."

Banerjee said the total difference in votes between TMC and BJP is 32 lakh whereas 35 lakh appeals are pending, indicating that had these deletions not happened, TMC could have won the polls.

On SC's focus on expediting the hearing of appeals, Banerjee said former Calcutta HC CJ T S Sivagnanam has resigned as chairperson of the SIR appellate tribunal. CJI Kant asked, "What can we do? Very few former judges are available for the task."

Election Commission counsel D S Naidu said the judge resigned citing personal reasons. "Can this be adjudicated by court," he asked. Banerjee laid emphasis on early decisions on appeals against deletion of names, saying many more elections are coming—for municipal corporations and panchayats, followed by 2029 LS elections. On the case relating to the attack on judicial officers in Malda district, NIA, through additional solicitor general S V Raju, informed SC that the probe is under way.

2 murders 'unprovoked': Cops

▶ Continued from page 1

One murder resulted from a verbal duel with the victim, while the other two were unprovoked, police said. A revolver and a sawed-off double-barrel gun were confiscated from the accused.

Varanasi range DIG Vaibhav Krishna said Singh, a resident of Tarn Taran, had served in the Army, but left in 2021.

Investigators said Singh appeared to be psychologically disturbed, allegedly aggravated by alcoholism, and became aggressive during questioning.

Singh reportedly told the investigators that he left Punjab on April 29 for Ara in Bihar to join a job as a security guard, although he could not give the details. He left for Prayagraj on May 9 by train. On Sunday, he boarded the PDDU-Tarighat train in Chandauli. After a verbal duel with fellow passenger Mangru, Singh allegedly shot him point-blank and threw his body on the tracks. Amid chaos in the coach, he jumped off the train when it slowed. He then boarded the Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express and shot and killed Dinesh Shah, who was travelling with his family to Naimisharanya.

The DIG said Singh fled again and wandering on foot, reached Jeevak Hospital in Kamalapur. He registered as a patient, identifying himself as Virendra, and then went to a ward on the upper floor and shot Laxmina dead. While fleeing, he fired another round.

However, an auto driver who had come to drop a patient chased Singh and caught him. The locals started thrashing him, but police reached the spot and rescued him from the mob.

Kuno National Park gets two more cheetahs

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav Monday released two more cheetahs into the wild at Kuno National Park in Sheopur district. The cheetahs, both female, were brought from Botswana. They were kept in quarantine enclosure before release. With nine cheetahs arriving from Botswana, India now has 57 of them, all in MP. Yadav expressed gratitude to PM Modi and Union forest and environment minister Bhupender Yadav. TNN

Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board
Office of the Chief Engineer, Dharwad
Sir M. Vishveshvarayya Road, Dharwad-580 001.
Ph No. : 0836-2447090, E-mail : kwbcen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender for the following work is invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No: 108 Dated : 07-05-2026. Name of Work:- Augmentation of Water Supply System to Gadag-Betageri City under AMRUT- 2.0 Including O&M for a Period of 5 years (Including 1- year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode' (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation)". INDENT NO: KUWSDB/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT509. For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

Sd/- Chief Engineer,
KUWS & D Board, Dharwad.

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/152/2026-27

Public Works Department,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001. Ph: **080-22133370,**
website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home**

Tender Notification
No. 03/2026-27 Date: 11.05.2026

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **Anekal Sub Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification is Published for 02 works (Rs. 100.00 Lakhs). Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal.**

Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through **KPP Portal.**

1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **on or before 4.00 PM on 27.05.2026.**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP Portal **on 29.05.2026 at 11.30 AM** or further date and time will be intimated.

For more details contact this office.

DIPR/DD-CP/591/KSMCA/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

E-Tender Document for auction (condemn items)
POLICE RADIO ZONE HEAD QUARTER JABALPUR .M.P.
INDIRA MARKET, MALGODAM CHOWK JABALPUR-482001
Fax No. 0761-2676123 E-mail: sprradio@mpploce.gov.in

No. SP(R)/JBP/ST/AUCTION/701/2026 **Date 04/05/2026**

E-Tender Cum Auction Notice
Invites E - Tender for Auction of Wirless Tower As Shown Below Mentioned

S. NO.	ITEM NAMIE	QTY	OFFSET PRICE IN Rs.	REQUIRED EMD Rs.	TENDER FEES Rs.
1.	100 FEET WIRLESS TOWER OLD PS DHOOMA DISTI. SEONI	01 NOS	RS. 90000/-	RS. 7800/-	RS. 1000/-
2.	150 FEET WIRLESS TOWER RADIO OFFICE SAGAR DISTT. SAGAR	01 NOS	RS. 171000/-		
	TOTAL OFF SET PRICE		RS. 261000/-		

1. Cost of tender documents is Rs. 1000/- (One thousand only) which is non refundable and no Exemption in any condition . tender fees will be deposited online.
2. The tender fees and EMD should be deposited online through website. https://www.mptenders.gov.in in favour of Suprintendent of Police (radio) jabalpur m.p
3. The tender documents can be downloaded from website https://www.mppolice.gov.in .
4. Online bid should be uploaded on website, https://www.mptenders.gov.in.
5. The bidder can bid only above the Offset Price Rs. 2.61.000/- and GST taxes are aplicable as per govt. rules with GST certificate.
6. **Schedule:-**

A	Tender Publishing date/time	Date:- 12/05/2026 frm 1700 hrs
B	Documents download/sale start date/time	Date:- 13/05/2026 frm 1700 hrs
C	Online Bid Submission Start date/time	Date:- 18/05/2026 frm 1700 hrs
D	Online Bid Submission End date/time	Date:- 02/06/2026 till 1600 hrs
E	Bid opening date/time	Date:- 09/06/2026 1200 hrs

''पॉक्सो है सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करें अत्याचार'' G-12719/26

Sd/-
Suprintendent of Police (Radio)
Zone Jabalpur m.p.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-02/180-2/2026-27 **Date: 11.05.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid License issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Formation of industrial layout including formation of 30m wide roads of flexible pavement, construction of RCC side drains, RCC box culverts, RCC utility ducts, HDPE water supply pipelines etc at Ittagatti (Sector-2) Industrial Area in Dharwad Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **04.06.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2,
KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/602/Zen/2026-27

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State.

No.: V.T.U./BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No. 18/633 Date : 09-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (K.P.P. Portal Only) 3rd Call

The E-Tenders are invited induplicate from eligible Tenderers, **Registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18,** under Standard Tender Document Procedure K/W Format for the **Work of Extension of First Floor at NSS Bhavan at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi. (3rd Call) Amounting to Rs. 2,98,90,947/- (Excluding GST) (3rd Call).** Other details log on to **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 13-05-2026.**

Sd/- Registrar.
V.T.U., Belagavi,

DIPR/Belagavi/224/Manipal/2026-27

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Sagar Forest Division, Sagar – 577401
Ph.: 08183 226071 e-mail: dcfsagar123@gmail.com
No.: B5/SAS/e-Auction/CR-11/2026-27/3 Date: 28.04.2026

Brief Tender Notice Regarding Disposal of Forest Produce like NATA/Fire Wood/Billets/Poles Through e-Auction

NATA / Firewood / Billets / Poles and other categories of forest produce available at the Government NATA Timber Centres of Sagara, Shikaripura, Anavatti, Hosanagara and Devikoppa Tank Depot in Shiralakoppa Zone, and Yalasi Tank Depot in Soraba Zone under the jurisdiction of Sagara Forest Division are proposed to be sold through public e-auction. The sale is scheduled to be conducted through e-auction on 20.05.2026, 21.05.2026, 22.05.2026, 25.05.2026, 27.05.2026 and 29.05.2026. The said e-auction sale notice has been published in this office letter vide No. B5/SAS/e-Auction/CR-11/2026-27/2 dated 28.04.2026. Interested buyers may participate in the e-auction and purchase the auctioned lots subject to all the conditions mentioned in the said notice. Further details regarding the e-auction can be obtained from the websites www.mstce commerce.com and www.etimber.in.

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sagar Forest Division, Sagar

DIPR/smg/KSMCA/26-27/39/05/210

LIC LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
New Business and Reinsurance Department,
5th Floor, Central Office, Mumbai

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender for Selection of Vendor for Centralized Printing of Policy Bonds & Dispatch for LIC of India

New Business and Reinsurance Department, Central Office, Mumbai invites tender for selection of Vendor for Centralized Printing of Policy Bonds & Dispatch for Life Insurance Corporation of India.

The tender document can be downloaded from the LIC official website (https://licindia.in/tenders), the TenderWizard portal (http://www.tenderwizard.com/LIC), and the Central Public Procurement Portal.

For Enquiries
Email: co_nbpost@licindia.com
Date: 12.05.2026

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(New Business and Reinsurance/ Health Insurance)

SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
RAEBARELI ROAD, LUCKNOW-226014 (U.P.), INDIA
Phone No.: 91 (0522): 2494042, 2494040, e-mail: irfreport@sgpgi.ac.in
Investigation Revolving Fund (IRF)

e-Tender Notice

Online e-bids are invited in two-bid system **(1) Technical bid** & **(2) Price bid** from reputed & genuine manufacturers/authorized primary importers for following items for entering into Rate Contract.

Diagnostic kits & reagents, laboratory reagents, chemicals, biochemicals, glassware, plasticware, lab ware, antibodies, PCR kits and pre-analytical items for all laboratories of the Institute and kits & consumables for the Department of Nuclear Medicine **(Tender Ref. No.: 153-201012/1/2026-PGI IRF)**

The bidders who have already participated in e-tender ref. no.: PGI/IRF/OT/376/2024-25 dated 17.10.2024 (e-Tender Id: 2024_SGPGI_965599_1) shall not be eligible to participate in this e-tender EXCEPT the bidders whose bid has/have been rejected due to non-submission of essential eligibility criteria documents and/or wrongful submission of financial bid etc., (like financial bid/price list submitted in technical bid or faulty financial bid).

The detailed terms & conditions of the e-Tender Notice can be downloaded from e-Tender website: **https://etender.up.nic.in** from **13.05.2026.** The last date of submission of offer/bid is **11.06.2026** at 16:00 hrs through online mode only.

Tender fee & EMD are to be submitted online as per terms & conditions mentioned in tender document. The Director reserves the sole right to accept or reject any bid partially or fully without assigning any reasons.

ADVT. No.: I/12/IRF/2026-27 Dated: 11.05.2026 **Director**

Expression of Interest (EoI)
Showcasing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solutions for Governance
Department of Information Technology, Government of NCT of Delhi

F.No C/3/2026-SeMT-IT/3975– 78 [Dated: 12/05/2026]

The Department of Information Technology, Government of NCT of Delhi invites Expressions of Interest (EoI) from technology companies, startups, academic institutions, research organizations, and industry bodies to showcase their Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions and use cases relevant to public service delivery and governance. Solution must be commercially available and done at least one successful implementation, relevant to public service delivery and governance (Domestic/International).

Selected organizations may be invited to present and demonstrate their AI solutions as part of an AI Innovation Showcase being organized by the Department.

Indicative Areas: Smart Governance & Public Service Delivery, Urban Planning & Smart Cities, Environment & Air Quality Monitoring, Health and Digital Health, Transport and Mobility, Education and other relevant sectors.

Interested organizations may submit a brief solution note / presentation via email.

Email: spl-secyit@delhi.gov.in

Last Date for Submission: 01/06/2026
EoI Document download link: **https://it.delhi.gov.in**

Sd/-
Joint Director (IT)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0046/26-27

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri.
No.: ACF: Channagiri:Tender.C.R-01/26-27-2 D: 07.05.2026

Tender is invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for providing services of Computer Operators/ Drivers/Watchmen/Security Camp Watchmen/Poaching Prevention Camp Watchmen, etc. required at Zones as mentioned in the Schedule below in the limits of the Zones of the Division and Bhadravathi Division Office for the year 2026-27, fixing time up to 5.00 PM on 22.05.2026. For Tender conditions and further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/30/05/202

25001/108/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF
RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
Letter No:15425, Dated. 27.04.2026
Email i.d.: crew_bbsr@yahoo.com

Notice inviting request for proposal from agencies (RFP-Online-01 (Building)/ 2026-27 dt. 27.04.2026)

1. Name of the work : Operation and Maintenance of Inspection Bunglow at PURI in the district of Puri.
2. Total No. of works : 01 (One) no
3. Other details : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No	No. of bridge works	Availability of tender online for bidding	
			From	To
Chief Engineer, Buildings & Bridges, Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar	RFP-Online -01 (Building)/ 2026-27	01 (One) No	14.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	04.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which will be available in website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Buildings & Bridges),
Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-25001/25123/1/26-27/0004

34001/183/2627

E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in
Tel/Fax - 0671-2301751/2302751

Government of Odisha
OFFICE ORDER NO. 2557 Dt. 05.05.2026

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 21/2025-26
Tender Reference-No. CCE.Ctc. (R&B) 21/2025-26

The Bid availability period and Date of opening of the tenders have been modified due to unavoidable circumstances. The modified dates are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Bid Identification No.	Bid Availability period as per Tender Notice	Revised Bid Availability period	Bid opening Date as per Tender Notice	Revised opening Date
1	CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 21/2025-26	15.04.2026 to 5.30 Hours of 29.04.2026	14.05.2026 to 5.30 Hours of 28.05.2026	30.04.2026 at 11.00 Hours	29.05.2026 at 11.00 Hours

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. Further details can be seen from the website **htpp://tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Civil)
Cuttack (R&B) Circle

OIPR-34001/34012/1/26-27/0007

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600008. Phone : 28191890 / 28190259 Fax : 044 - 28190636

Sl.No	Online Tender no with qty./ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Submission	Opening
1	E1537/DIET/DME/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, Dt:07.05.2026 – Hiring agency for providing various types of diets to patients at GPH, Periyar Nagar, Chennai – Rs.5,725/-	12.05.2026 to 26.05.2026	19.05.2026 11.00 AM	27.05.2026 11.00 AM	27.05.2026 12.00 Noon
2	E1538/FUR/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, Dt:07.05.2026 – Polyurethane Base Pallets (1425) – Rs.3,435/-	12.05.2026 to 26.05.2026	19.05.2026 11.30 AM	27.05.2026 11.00 AM	27.05.2026 12.00 Noon
3	E1539/FUR/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, Dt:07.05.2026 – Transfer Trolley (223) – Rs.2,290/-	12.05.2026 to 26.05.2026	19.05.2026 12.00 Noon	27.05.2026 11.00 AM	27.05.2026 12.00 Noon
4	E1540/XRF/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, Dt:07.05.2026 – X-ray Films (Various sizes) – Rs.5,725/-	12.05.2026 to 21.05.2026	15.05.2026 11.00 AM	22.05.2026 11.00 AM	22.05.2026 12.00 Noon
5	E1541/BRACHY/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, Dt:07.05.2026 - Brachytherapy equipment with an iridium Source (1) – Rs.5,725/-	13.05.2026 to 01.06.2026	20.05.2026 11.00 AM	02.06.2026 11.00 AM	02.06.2026 12.00 Noon
6	E1542/ANL/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, Dt:07.05.2026 – ABG Analyzer (152) – Rs.5,725/-	13.05.2026 to 01.06.2026	20.05.2026 11.30 AM	02.06.2026 11.00 AM	02.06.2026 12.00 Noon
7	E1544/EYE/DME/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, Dt:07.05.2026 – Operating Microscope - basic (4) – Rs.5,725/-	13.05.2026 to 01.06.2026	20.05.2026 12.00 Noon	02.06.2026 11.00 AM	02.06.2026 12.00 Noon
8	E1543/INC/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, Dt:07.05.2026 – Digital Incubator (51) – Rs.3,435/-	14.05.2026 to 25.05.2026	20.05.2026 12.00 Noon	26.05.2026 11.00 AM	26.05.2026 12.00 Noon

For details visit **www.tntenders.gov.in** and TNMSC website **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** DIPR/1849/TENDER/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER (EQUIPMENT)**

30001/18/2627

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

OMC ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. — Mining Happiness

E-auction Notice (20.05.2026 – 209th & 210th E-auction)
IRON ORE CLO & FINES

The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd intends to sell various grades of Iron ore CLO & Fines produced at Daitari and Gandhamardan Regions (Block - A & B) and Guali, Jilling Langalota, Tiringpahar, Khandbandh, Banspani, Unchabali (Mahaparbat), Roida 'C' & Dubuna - Sekradihi Iron and Manganese Mines of Barbil Region in Keonjhar District and Khandadhar/Kurmitar Mines under Koira Region in Sundargarh District, Odisha through e-auction which will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. The e-auction shall be held from **11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. on 20.05.2026.**

"Traders shall not be allowed to participate in National e-Auction of Iron Ore CLO and Fines w.e.f. April, 2026 onwards."

For details, please visit the website of MSTC i.e. **www.mstcecommerce.com**

OIPR-30001/30005/1/26-27/0018 **Chief General Manager (S&M)**

1001/42/2627

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE (INFORMATION), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
No. 1284 / Date: 11.05.2026

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
With reference to the Bid No.1082 dt. 21/04/2026 for "Procurement of 314 No.s of Interactive Panels"

The details of information relating to the Corrigendum with reference to the **Bid No. 1082 dt. 21/04/2026 can be downloaded from www.agri.odisha.gov.in/ tenderodisha.gov.in from dt. 12.05.2026.** The last date of submission of Bid, Bid processing fee and EMD have been extended up to 25.05.2026, 05.30 pm. Other terms and conditions as mentioned in the Bid document remains unchanged.

Sd/-
Joint Director of Agriculture (Information), Bhubaneswar

OIPR-1001/1102/1/26-27/0004

32001/181/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
E-mail:sebalangir@gmail.com
"e- Procurement Notice"
BID Identification No: ACE, BOIC- 01/2026-27
Procurement Details

Pkg. No.	Name of works	Approx. Tender Cost (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Bid Security/ EMD	Cost of tender document	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Rehabilitation, Improvement and Basic Facility of Upper Suktel Dam in Balangir District of Odisha under DRIP-II (Civil Work).	3,30,70,937.90/-	'A' Class	Rs.3,31,000/-	Rs.10,000/-	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Date of Seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender		Place of opening
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Addl. Chief Engineer, Balangir Irrigation Circle, Balangir	ACE, BOIC-01/2026-27	Dt. 13.05.2026 10.00 A.M.	Dt. 22.06.2026 up to 5.30 P.M.	Dt. 14.05.2026 to Dt. 30.05.2026 At Office during office hours. (In working days)	Dt. 23.06.2026 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical Bid.	Office of Addl. Chief Engineer, Balangir Irrigation Circle, Balangir

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "**https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**"

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Balangir Irrigation Circle, Balangir

OIPR-32001/32347/1/26-27/0001

29001/4/2627

Government of Odisha
Sports & Youth Services Department
Kalinga Stadium, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012
e-mail: deptsportsodisha@gmail.com

Request for Proposal (RFP)
No. PT2-SYS-YS-YS-0017-2026-16012/SYS, dated: 11.05.2026

The Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha invites bids from leading agencies through Request for Proposal (RFP) for engagement of an Event Management Agency in connection with the observance of the State-Level International Day of Yoga (IDY)-2026 scheduled to be held at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar on 21st June 2026.

The detailed bid document, including eligibility criteria, scope of work, timelines, and terms & conditions, is available on the websites mentioned below:

Website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** and **https://sports.odisha.gov.in**

Interested firms/agencies are advised to study the RFP document carefully before submitting their bid.

Important dates and information:

Date of publication of RFP	:	**11.05.2026**
Submission of pre-bid queries	:	**18.05.2026**
Pre-bid Meeting	:	**19.05.2026**
Response to pre-bid queries	:	**22.05.2026**
Bid Submission starting date	:	**23.05.2026**
Bid submission last date	:	**01.06.2026, 4.00 pm**

Sd/-
Additional Secretary

OIPR-29001/29001/1/26-27/0002

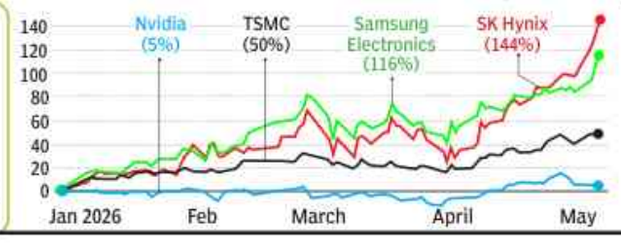
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

Asia's three chipmakers - Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, Samsung Electronics, and SK Hynix - and their recent record earnings have put the spotlight on their critical role in the global AI supply chain. Chip revenues leapt 50x at Samsung last quarter. SK Hynix, which was worth less than $100 billion 16 months ago, is closing in on $800 billion. Samsung, SK Hynix and TSMC all count the 'Magnificent 7' US tech giants as customers and sell hardware to Nvidia

Riding the AI wave

The AI boom has created a severe shortage of memory chips, propelling a surge in share of top producers Samsung and SK Hynix this year



There's no stopping Asia's AI frenzy

South Korea and Taiwan equities have surged in 2026, far outperforming Nasdaq and S&P 500

Note: YTD % performance up to May 7, 2026

Source: Reuters

Re crashes 91p against dollar

Mumbai: The rupee endured its sharpest drop in more than a month on Monday to end at it weakest closing level on record as a run-up in crude oil prices battered the currency after US President Donald Trump rejected Iran's response to a US peace proposal. The rupee fell 91 paise (nearly 0.9%) to 95.31 per dollar in its steepest single-day drop since March 27, tracking losses in regional peers. Brent crude rose 2.5% to $103.8 per barrel as shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remained paralysed. REUTERS

Sensex tumbles 1,313 pts as West Asia tensions reignite

Foreign Funds Net Sell ₹8.4K Cr Stocks | Investors Poorer By ₹6L Cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Fresh tensions between the US and Iran affected global investor sentiment on Monday, pushing up crude oil prices, weakening the rupee to a level below the 95-to-the-dollar mark, and leading to a sell-off on Dalal Street. As a result, sensex lost over 1,000 points in early trade, recovered some ground by mid-session, but fresh selling forced it to close 1,313 points (1.7%) down at 76,015 points.

Foreign funds, which had already taken out over Rs 2 lakh crore from the Indian stock market on a net basis till May 8 this year, led Monday's sell-off, BSE data showed. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) net sold stocks worth another Rs 8,438 crore during the day. In contrast, domestic funds were net buyers at Rs 5,940 crore.

According to Vinod Nair of Geojit Investments, markets slid sharply as renewed tensions in the Persian Gulf region, following President Donald Trump's rejection of Iran's peace proposal, weighed on investor sentiment. "The cautious mood deepened after the PM's appeal to conserve energy and avoid non-essential foreign travel, prompting investors to reassess the economic impact of higher crude prices, (rupee) weakness, and pressure on the current account deficit."

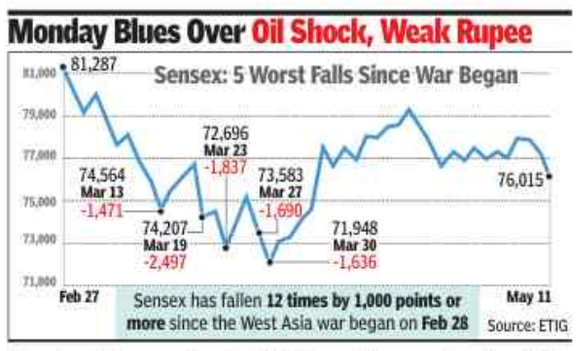
Nair said that at present, India's strong fiscal position and healthy forex reserves are helping the govt to absorb the impact of elevated crude prices. However, prolonged geopolitical tensions could increase macroeconomic stress. Meanwhile, rising bond yields and persistent foreign fund outflow are likely to keep markets rangebound in the near term.

The day's session left investors poorer by a little over Rs 6 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 467.3 lakh crore, official data showed.

Among the sensex stocks, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel contributed the most to the day's fall in sensex.

Going forward, a combination of global and domestic factors which investors would keep a watch on include crude oil prices, weakness of the rupee, FPI trading trend, and the upcoming meeting between presidents of the US and China, market analysts said.

Monday Blues Over Oil Shock, Weak Rupee



Sensex has fallen **12 times by 1,000 points or more** since the West Asia war began on **Feb 28**

Source: ETIG

Austerity push: Gold, jewellery stocks hit

Mumbai: Gold and jewellery stocks crashed on Monday, a day after PM Modi's appeal to people to buy less of the yellow metal. Gold is one of the biggest import items for India that's stretching the country's fisc due to the sharp depreciation of the rupee. Among leading players in the sector, Kalyan Jewellers closed 9.2% down, Senco Gold lost 8.6%, Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri lost 7.5% while Titan closed 6.8% down. On MCX, on Monday, gold futures prices were up about 1% at over Rs 1.5 lakh/10 gm, while silver futures prices were up nearly 5% at about Rs 2.75 lakh/kg. Despite negative market sentiment about the precious metals, the spike came mainly due to the sharp weakness of the rupee, market players said. TNN

Sensible ask, India Inc on PM's WFH appeal

RIL, Tata Group Exploring Greater Flexibility | Move May Affect IT Cos' Return To Office Plans

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity measures to curb fuel consumption, including reviving work-from-home, companies have begun reviewing the possibility of getting at least some employees to come to office on fewer days.

Large conglomerates, including the Tata Group and Reliance Industries, are reassessing workplace policies and exploring greater flexibility for employees amid concerns over fuel and supply disruptions.

Reliance Industries, controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, currently requires employees to work from office without a hybrid option.

"We are assessing the situation," a Reliance spokesperson said. The Tata Group is also said to be examining flexibility measures across several operating companies, though no group-wide decision has been taken.

For infrastructure and engineering firms such as Larsen & Toubro and KEC International, the issue is more complex because a large section of employees work at project sites, making blanket work-from-home policies impractical. However, following the escalation in West Asia, L&T has issued internal advisories asking employees to avoid non-essential travel and conduct meetings virtually where possible.

CII president Rajiv Memani, who is EY's chairman for the India region, said PM's message must be taken seriously. "I don't view it as a crisis. I view this as a sensible and pragmatic ask to the country to ensure we are mindful of the current geopolitical challenges. One way is to moderate consumption and the PM's request is to say that if we can moderate consumption, especially in areas where we are importing, we should take necessary measures."

Vir S Advani, chairman and managing director of Blue Star, said the measures may have a modest impact on business, but are in the country's larger interest.

But it may complicate return-to-office plans in the IT sector, where companies are steadily increasing office attendance mandates. Firms argue that working from office helps build social capital, strengthens collaboration, and improves productivity monitoring. India's technology sector workforce rose by 1.3 lakh to 5.9 million in 2026. Many IT firms currently require employees to work from office two to five days a week under hybrid models.

Industry body Nasscom said the sector already operates on well-established hybrid models, balancing WFH and office attendance based on business and customer requirements. "These measures are not new; they are part of the industry's broader approach to operational resilience and sustainability," Nasscom said, adding that the sector's distributed delivery models allow companies to operate seamlessly and flexibly when required.

TCS, for instance, has mandated five days of office attendance and linked compliance to variable pay and career progression. Wipro requires employees to work from office at least three days a week, while HCLTech has mandated 12 compulsory in-office days a month. Cognizant, Tech Mahindra, and Capgemini have also tightened office attendance norms.

Meanwhile, IT employees' union Nites has urged the labour ministry to mandate work-from-home for the technology workforce. The union said the pandemic had demonstrated that remote work for digitally deliverable roles was practical and operationally sustainable, with companies investing heavily in remote infrastructure, cybersecurity, cloud operations, and collaboration tools while maintaining uninterrupted global business operations.

CUBICLES VS COUCH AGAIN

- **Tata and Reliance** review workplace flexibility
- **L&T** curbs non-essential employee travel
- **Nasscom** backs hybrid work flexibility
- IT employees' union **Nites** seeks mandatory WFH for tech staff
- Tech workforce reaches 5.9 million in 2026

"These measures are not new; they are part of the industry's broader approach to operational resilience, sustainability — **Nasscom**

Canara Bank FY26 profit up 12.6%, asset quality improves

Bengaluru: PSU lender Canara Bank on Sunday reported a 12.6% year-on-year increase in net profit for FY26 at Rs 19,187 crore, supported by robust loan growth, improved asset quality, and higher fee-based income.

The bank's global business expanded 12.1% year-on-year to Rs 28 lakh crore as of March 31. Global deposits rose 9.7% to Rs 15.68 lakh crore. Retail lending continued to drive growth, with the retail loan portfolio rising 32.9% year-on-year to Rs 2.9 lakh crore. Housing loans increased 17.5% to Rs 1.2 lakh crore, while vehicle loans grew 26.3%.

Operating profit for FY26 stood at Rs 33,019 crore, up 5.1% from the previous year, while fee-based income increased 8.8% to Rs 9,649 crore. Asset quality improved further during the year, with the gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio declining to 1.8% in March from 2.9% a year earlier. Net NPA ratio improved to 0.4% from 0.7%.

Canara Bank managing director and chief executive officer **Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia** told **TOI** that the bank would continue to focus on reducing stress levels further. He said the slippage ratio of 0.6% was among the best in the industry and was supported by a "very robust" SMA (Special Mention Account) level of 2.7%. The bank's SMA-2 book — the category most vulnerable before loans turn nonperforming — stood at around Rs 10,000 crore.

"We are going to sustain these levels and gradually decrease them," he said.

Four Groww investors to sell 4.3% in co, eye $500mn

Partha.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Four early investors in Billionbrains Garage Ventures that operates the leading fintech platform Groww, are together selling 4.3% stake worth about $500 million (close to Rs 4,800 crore) in the recently-listed company. Peak XV, Sequoia, Y Combinator and Ribbit, the selling shareholders, have mandated Kotak Securities and JP Morgan India to sell the shares through block deals on Tuesday.

The four selling shareholders, all PE majors, are together selling a little over 26.8 crore shares of Groww

The four selling shareholders, all private equity majors, are together selling a little over 26.8 crore shares of Groww, translating to 4.3% of the fintech major's equity capital, the term sheet for the deal showed. The floor price for the offer, at Rs 177 per share, is at 8.5% discount to Groww's closing price of Rs 193.5 on NSE on Monday. The base offer size is for 4.3% of the total equity capital of Groww, valued at Rs 4,750 crore at the floor price. There's is an upsize option for further sale through this deal, the term sheet said.

According to a report by Nuvama Alternative & Quantitative Research, for those shareholders who held shares in the company before it went public, lock-in of shares is set to end on May 12. The total number of Groww shares from which lock-in would be lifted is 418.2 crore. At current prices, that is worth nearly Rs 81,000 crore. According to Sebi rules, aimed at limiting any pressure on the stock price from over-supply of shares of a recently listed company, there's lock-in for shareholders who had invested in the company before the IPO. Among the other prominent, recently-listed companies in which lock-in for pre-IPO shareholders is ending soon are Meesho (308.3 crore shares on June 10), Pine Labs (92.4 crore shares on May 13) and Physicwallah (25.9 crore shares on May 18).

Amid AI push, LTM ramps up fresher hiring by 40%

Veena.Mani@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: LTM (formerly LTIMindtree) increased fresher hiring by 40% in FY26 and expanded the deployment of AI agents across its workforce. At the same time, the company relied more on subcontractors in overseas markets and adopted a calibrated salary hike strategy amid macroeconomic uncertainty The IT firm onboarded more than 6,700 freshers during 2025-26, strengthening its talent pipeline across key capabilities. It also deployed over 1,500 AI agents internally to improve employee productivity and operational efficiency at scale.

Subcontracting expenses, meanwhile, rose sharply to Rs 3,236.9 crore in FY26 from Rs 2,631.2 crore a year earlier. The increase was driven by a higher subcontractor headcount and rising overseas subcontracting costs due to rupee depreciation. The company's workforce mix reflected changing onsite hiring trends. In the US, full-time employee count declined marginally to 7,454 in FY26 from 7,517 a year earlier, while subcontractor numbers rose to 1,324 from 952. In Europe, employee headcount dropped to 1,381 from 1,735, whereas subcontractors increased to 290 from 227.

In India, both permanent employee and subcontractor numbers increased during the year. Employee headcount rose to 77,855 from 73,801 in FY25, while subcontractors increased to 2,650 from 2,097. Overall, the company's total permanent employees, excluding subsidiaries, stood at 87,950 as of March 31, compared with 84,307 a year earlier.

Equity MFs in April show net inflows of ₹38.4k cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Investors continued to invest in equities, debt and gold through the mutual fund route despite volatile markets due to geopolitical tensions. In April, net inflows in equity funds were at Rs 38,440 crore, down marginally from Rs 40,450 crore in March while the corresponding figure in debt funds showed a huge reversal with a Rs 2.47 lakh crore net inflow last month, data released by fund industry trade body AMFI showed. It was the 62nd consecutive month of net inflows into equity schemes.

SIP inflows ease marginally while investors favour diversified and gold-backed schemes amid volatile markets and geopolitical uncertainty

Gross inflows through the SIP flows were down a bit at Rs 31,115 crore, from Rs 32,087 crore in March, which showed an unusual spike since some end-Feb SIP mandates had flowed into March.

According to Bhautik Ambani, CEO, AlphaGrep Mutual Fund, the April flows indicate that investors are becoming more balanced and allocation-focused rather than purely return-chasing.

"Even as overall equity inflows moderated, multi asset allocation funds continued to attract strong inflows of over Rs 5,000 crore, highlighting growing investor preference for diversified strategies that can navigate volatility across asset classes."

Investors also invested in gold exchange traded funds which recorded net inflows at Rs 3,040 crore.

No reform complacency, to ensure macro stability: Das

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt is steadfast in pursuing reforms along with policy certainty, which will ensure that India not only maintains macroeconomic stability but also emerges as a globally competitive economy, principal secretary to PM **Shaktikanta Das** said Monday, while listing out seven strategies that the corporate sector may adopt to build resilience.

Addressing the CII annual meeting, Das, a former RBI governor, listed out several reform initiatives that have already been taken, apart from steps to enhance strategic self-reliance — from rare earth permanent magnets to critical minerals and ship building, while asserting that several more steps are in the pipeline. "What is more important in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat@2047 is that there is no reform complacency and govt remains steadfast in pursuing the reform agenda." He stressed that Indian businesses should undertake "strategic reorientation" in the evolving global economic order. Das said in today's world of geoeconomic fragmentation and supply chain disruptions, the world of corner solution is increasingly becoming less efficient.

"It is now evident that no single supply chain remains the cheapest, safest and predictable on a sustained basis. In this context, it's resilience maximisation, which is increasingly replacing cost minimisation as a priority for businesses. It can be highly cost-effective in the long-run." He suggested that India Inc should build organisational resilience, strengthen balance sheets, build new supply chains and reskill manpower.

Das also said that recent FTAs are expected to enable our firms to scale faster and integrate into the global value chains as the modern FTAs go beyond goods and unlock gains in services, digital trade and professional mobility.

Old is gold: Metal recycling shines amid high prices

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Indians' love for gold is ever shining but the steep prices of the yellow metal over the past several quarters have nudged consumers to find ways to ease burden on their pockets while keeping the heft and appeal of jewellery intact. For instance, consumers are buying less of new gold but instead recycling or exchanging the gold stored in their households for new gold to save on some money. Every time you give your old jewellery to a gold retailer, it gets recycled, which means you are reusing gold that you already have and using its value to buy something new, in effect reducing the burden of imports.

India's gold imports increased in value from $58 billion in FY25 to $72 billion in FY26, govt data showed. At P.N. Gadgil & Sons, the proportion of gold exchange and recycling, which stood at nearly 25–30% up to FY25, has significantly increased to around 50–60% in recent quarters, said COO & CFO Aditya Modak, adding that in such cases, old gold is usually taken at credit for purchase and the remaining is settled in cash. The volume of new gold purchases has seen a 30% decline in gram terms over recent quarters, said Modak. "This shift indicates that rising gold prices and ongoing volatility have prompted consumers to increasingly opt for recycling and upcycling existing gold jewellery instead of purchasing entirely new pieces," said Modak.

SHIFT TO LOWER CARAT GOLD LIKELY

- At **P.N. Gadgil,** 50–60% of gold purchases now via exchange/recycling; new gold buying is down by 30% (in grams)
- 35% growth in both gold & studded portfolios at **Tanishq,** driven by exchange programmes
- 15–20% rise in exchanges at **CaratLane** in Q4; **BlueStone** says exchanges have doubled Y-o-Y
- **PM's call sees demand shifting to lower carat gold, silver & light jewellery;** brands may revise medium-term outlook

Tata's Tanishq said that exchange programmes helped record a 35% growth in each of gold and studded products portfolios alongside new collections. "Over 30 lakh Indians have partaken of Tanishq's gold exchange programmes for years, recycling close to 1.7 lakh kg of gold," the brand had said in a note last year, explaining that recycling is not a new strategy adopted by consumers. However, in recent times, that share has only grown, driven by volatile gold prices. "Industry wide, there has been a significant increase in gold recycling," said Saumen Bhaumik, MD at Tata's CaratLane for which gold exchanges shot up by 15-20% than usual in the March quarter.

Industry executives expect consumers to tweak their buying patterns on PM's call to avoid non-essential purchases of gold for a year. Bhaumik, estimates people to move to lower gold caratages and opt for silver and light diamond jewellery for regular usage. "The brand might have to revise its medium to long-term forecast after assessing the impact over next few weeks," said Modak.

For BlueStone Jewellery, exchanges have doubled year-on-year, with the brand offering more benefits to consumers going for exchanges so that they can get higher value, said founder & CEO Gaurav Singh Kushwaha. Many consumers are now looking at old jewellery not as something to simply store away but as an asset that can be redesigned into something more contemporary and wearable, said Ankur Daga, co-founder at Angara.

India must build its own AI models: Sarvam AI

Aabhas Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India cannot afford to remain a passive consumer in the AI era and must urgently build its own frontier-scale artificial intelligence models if it wants to shape global technology rules, according to **Pratyush Kumar,** co-founder of Sarvam AI.

Speaking at the CII Business Summit, Kumar said Sarvam is now preparing to train its first trillion-parameter AI model within next nine months, marking what could become a major milestone for the country's indigenous AI ambitions.

"We can rent it for now until we don't have it, but you have to build it. You have to own the destiny around that," Kumar said, arguing that India must move beyond debates around whether it should build its own AI models and instead focus on creating long-term strategic capability.

Kumar said AI would become the defining intelligence layer across industries, governance, science and manufacturing, making ownership of foundational models critical for economic value creation. He warned that India risks repeating mistakes made during earlier technological revolutions.

"What we saw with steam engine, steel making and the internet, in all these eras, we became users and frankly lost out on key value creation," he said. "This is now the start of a new era, which is going to play out quarter by quarter." The Sarvam AI co-founder revealed that the company has already demonstrated a proof of concept showing India can build large-scale AI systems end-to-end, using domestic capabilities across data, algorithms, research and infrastructure. He also stressed that India would need significantly larger investments in AI infrastructure and research talent to compete globally. "The intelligence layer will accrue the value," he said. "It requires infrastructure, but it requires R&D talent to build these models." Warning against policy drift, Kumar said India still lacks a clear national AI direction.

AI jobs growing at 15-20%: Vaishnaw

New Delhi: There are many parts of the IT industry that need to be transformed, and demand for AI-related jobs is growing in the country by 15-20%, Union electronics & IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday. "I am constantly in touch with our IT industry. They feel that AI job growth will be kind of, it's almost like it's growing almost 15-20%. Yes, many other parts of the IT industry will have to be transformed now, but AI-related job growth is happening," Vaishnaw said. AGENCIES

A thought for today

A true poet does not bother to be poetical. Nor does a nursery gardener scent his roses

JEAN COCTEAU

Austerity Plus

Save forex on fuel and gold, but also push through reforms to accelerate growth

PM's appeal to curb fuel use through public transport, and shun gold buying for a year, is timely. Hormuz Strait has been closed for almost 75 days now, roughly 20% of world's fuel supply has been cut off, and global fuel prices have been at least 50% higher than Feb levels. India hasn't passed on the difference to consumers so far, but business as usual is straining rupee, forex reserves, and overall economy. As for gold, it's a discretionary spend, so buying less of it now will ease those pressures somewhat.

Question is, can public austerity offset the ₹30,000cr monthly loss on account of oil and gas? We have earlier argued for delaying fuel price hikes, to keep inflation down, but Iran's latest terms to lift the blockade suggest this crisis won't end soon. By seeking war damages, and "sovereignty" over Hormuz Strait – what Trump calls "totally unacceptable" demands – Iran's shown it's willing to bear pain, as long as it emerges from this war looking stronger, not beaten. That's a problem for Trump, and everyone else, too. For India, this uncertainty makes a fuel price hike inevitable, so PM's speech should be read as a warning shot.

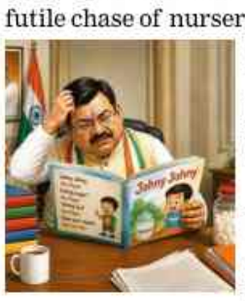
But austerity moves can be double-edged. Not flying abroad hurts airlines. Buying less fuel hurts pump operators, who earn a fixed commission per litre. Likewise, not buying gold means hardship for big and small jewellers, and their staff. That's why we need other policies to get through this crisis. Take gold, for example. If we mobilise a tiny part of our household gold hoard – 35,000 tonnes – the jewellery business can keep going without fresh imports. What's needed is institutional gold buying that's safe, fair and easy.

If a long stalemate in Hormuz causes economic slowdown, GOI should be ready to step up infra spending. It might add to inflation – which is anyway bound to rise with higher fuel prices – but right now, maintaining the growth momentum is crucial. Alongside, long-delayed economic reforms should also set rolling. PSU disinvestment is the lowest hanging fruit of all. As Economic Survey pointed out, while in-principle approval for disinvestment in 36 CPSEs has been accorded since 2016, only 13 have been disinvested. After two more resounding wins in major state elections, BJP has immense political capital to carry out these reforms. If it waits longer, it may lose the opportunity as UP polls draw near. The plans already exist, what's needed is prompt action.

Who Needs Schooling

Ministers' beliefs lay waste to the goals of school education

UP's education minister finds two English nursery rhymes unfit for consumption. He thinks 'Johny Johny' teaches fibbing, and 'Rain, rain, go away' selfishness. So, he wants these knocked off the KG menu. They're against Indian values, he says. Once upon a time, there was a naughty little boy, in India, who sent his neighbourhood into a tizzy, flicking delicious home-made butter from homes, and cheekily denying his actions. Takeaways from those stories have endured the test of time, life lessons taught from childhood. UP's education minister, likely, hasn't heard these tales. But that isn't the point. The single point is that this futile chase of nursery rhymes is a colossal waste of his time. On a different note, and even more problematic, was Bihar's education minister questioning the need for education for girls. This is not just distressing, but shows again, a minister's colossal waste of time.



Both statements reflect the ground reality – short shrift is made of education. As it is, teachers are made to prioritise all manner of govt tasks – everything is important except imparting an education. Behind this is the narrow, limiting, straitjacketed top-down approach to schooling, disinterest in education an inherent part, with no meaningful local engagement. After all, what can a village do about an absentee teacher? Little – everything's decided in the state capital; there's no local avenue for redress. Only decentralisation of schooling can help – where local govt and administration are responsible, accountable and thus invested. In remote Bihar, a 2023 survey showed private tuition was nearly replacing school, where kids go for midday meals alone. Vacancies, absenteeism, DBT instead of textbooks, no real learning, certificate fraud, excessive corruption, have all hollowed the school experience in large parts of India. That's worrying. Ministers should be overhauling this system, to make education matter. Not fretting about nursery rhymes, or why send girls to school.

A Tiger's Safari

After a maiden solo trek, a letter to its procreators

Sunil Warrier

Dear Aayee and Baba, you will be shocked and delighted to know that I am alive and in a safe haven (hopefully). I have decided to abandon my peripatetic adventure and to settle in Simlipal National Park (Orissa). There were favourable places along the way to make myself a home, but I was looking for companionship and security.

Much against my wishes, you drove me out of verdant Chandrapur (Maharashtra) by firing my imagination with wonderful anecdotes of a glorious past, plus fearful stories of coping with threats from not only our community, but also from those two-legged devious monsters.

I'm thankful for you having taught me staying-alive skills. It did indeed come helpful as I kept cautiously walking to find my own 25 sq km of antiquated woods. It was really tough learning on the job.

Baba was bigger than me, yes. But when I began to move out, there were giant menacing stripes that dwarfed me. I got swiped a few times and the scars are permanent. I am beyond your recognition now. I met some cute ones too (blush, blush) but no one took a liking for me. You always called me 'chikna'.

Anyway, I remember Baba coyly mentioning Simlipal and our black-skinned relatives and you, Aayee, chastising him. Didn't someone say there are 10? My curiosity, and a gamble, has led me here. I admit I couldn't find love with my golden-striped ones, but I am hopeful that at least one young belle here will accept me unconditionally.

Once, during the day, I dozed off in a house while its residents were at their farm. Fortunately, I managed to escape in the nick of time. Another time, some kids chased me with sticks, but I camouflaged beautifully in the woods and held my breath, until they went the wrong way. I got some tasty food along the way, mostly pigs and cattle that I caught without many hassles.

My swimming skills were put to the test as I had to cross at least two huge water bodies. How I wish the monsters would leave us hurdle-free passage everywhere for migration. I doubt if I will ever risk a return trip. So, we will never meet. Do take good care of yourselves. I will too, if allowed.

Yours lovingly, Gumnam (no name)

Decoding Modi's Economy Message

He's basically preparing the country for tough decisions GOI has to take. Aside from fuel price hikes, there may be some mild curbs. But extravagant poll promises by all winning parties, including BJP, make economic management that much tougher

R Jagannathan

Barely a day after PM was brimming with pride in Kolkata over the fact that BJP now governed all states "from Gangotri to Gangasagar", his messaging shifted from triumph to caution. Speaking in Hyderabad on May 10 after swearing in the first BJP govt in Bengal the previous day, Modi shifted into governance mode, pointing to the tougher economic times ahead.

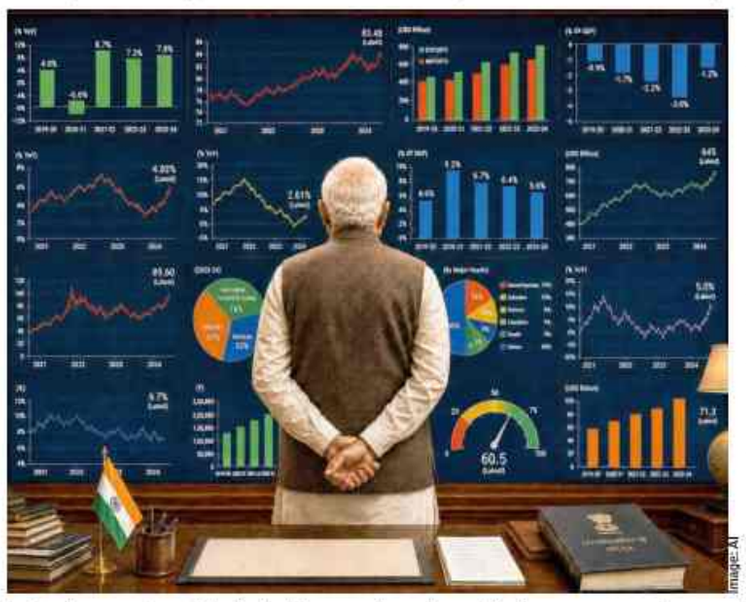
Against the backdrop of high imported energy costs in the context of the Iran-US-Israel war (now in a fragile ceasefire), Modi began preparing the people for what is to come. He asked people to use public transport or car-pools, shift to electric vehicles, take fewer vacations abroad, and reduce gold purchases. He urged farmers to use less chemical fertilisers, and companies to allow more employees to work from home.

This exhortation to voluntary belt-tightening foregrounds the likelihood of tougher measures to come, which could include increases in the prices of petrol and diesel, on which the oil marketing companies are currently losing ₹30,000cr a month. Knowing how Modi first prepares the ground for policy action before actually following it up with policy moves, one should expect a series of moves to deal with the situation thrown up by the Gulf and other wars.

In March 2020, when Covid was about to spread massively, Modi first announced a voluntary 14-hour *janta curfew* on March 22, and then followed it up with a full-fledged lockdown for three weeks from March 24. So, Sunday's call for voluntary curbs on fuel consumption may well be followed by price hikes and curbs on inessential imports or foreign travel, though none of these are likely to be draconian. We have already seen initial moves on energy, where prices of commercial LPG have been raised substantially, duties have been imposed on diesel exports, and aviation fuel costs more for international flights.

Given the soaring costs of energy and other inputs, this could result in higher inflation and a reduction in consumption demand, more so in a year in which the monsoon is expected to play truant, and global growth is under the weather. The only question to ask is why govt took so long to act.

The answer, of course, is the elections to five assemblies, four states and one UT, in two of which (Bengal and Assam) BJP had enormous stakes. Not only were these elections coming at the wrong time for the economy, but in each one of them, both incumbent



govts and their challengers, have been offering a range of freebies, which can only be financed by more public borrowings.

ENERGY WARS

According to research by Emkay Global Financial Services, state fiscal deficits are already well above the 3% limit, and the massive pre-poll promises made in Tamil Nadu and Bengal could add another 2.2-3.4% of state gross domestic product in unaffordable expenses. While Tamil Nadu is a relatively rich state, Bengal is closer to the bottom, and BJP has made generous cash transfer promises of ₹3,000 per month for women, and vowed to raise state employees' wages to levels recommended by Seventh Pay Commission.

At the central level, given the expected demand compression after a likely boost in energy costs, growing defence expenditure, and the push effect to general consumer inflation, there is a distinct possibility of a shortfall in tax revenues, both on the direct and indirect taxes fronts. Centre and states will not have enough money to meet all their freebie promises, unless taxes or administered prices are raised significantly.

As for growth, it is likely to surprise us on the downside, as personal spending could be constrained, and corporate capital expenditure may be reined in due to higher funding costs and tapering demand. Govts are likely to delay their own capital and revenue spending.

This is the background to Modi's call to curtail consumption of costly fuel and fertiliser. The call will surely be followed by actual price increases, and policy changes to boost domestic output, and a reduction in import dependence on both energy and fertiliser. The policy initiatives will take time to play out and deliver, but the price increases will have an immediate impact on consumer wallets.

It is a pity that most political parties now believe that the only way to win an election is by offering things free to the general public, at the cost of the tax-paying minority and higher borrowings. The awkwardly timed assembly elections, which prevented quicker corrective policy action (after all, no party expects to win by giving bad news to the voter), have allowed the dam of fiscal prudence to be irrevocably breached, damaging growth prospects.

The hole in state finances is difficult to repair, and fiscal deficits in most states are already worse than they were before Covid. There is no way any state is going to emerge from the current election cycle fiscally unscathed.

Politically it feels like a great achievement to rule from Gangotri to Gangasagar, but fiscally the country is up the creek with a broken paddle. The time of reckoning is nigh.

Hanta It Down: Why This Virus Won't Cruise To India

First, Andes strain found on cruise ship is deadly, but occupants, including two Indians, are in quarantine. Second, Hantavirus strains found in Asia aren't big killers. Third, India's disease surveillance is reliable

K Srinath Reddy

After the pandemic's horrors, the world reacts, fearfully, to any news of respiratory virus outbreak, anywhere. Recent outbreak of a Hantavirus infection, in the closed confines of a cruise ship, sailing from Argentina to Europe, has triggered global alarm – including in India. "Are we at risk?"

The answer is clear, and comforting. Most Hanta strains do not exhibit propensity for human-to-human transmission. However, the Andes strain, native to Argentina and Columbia, has been known to do so. That strain infected the ship's passengers. However, Andes strain hasn't led to large-scale epidemics in the past. Its spread was limited locally, despite high virulence.

Most travellers on the affected ship, MV Hondius, were from Europe and North America. They're now quarantined, under medical observation and tests. The two Indians infected were crew members, and are also under quarantined observation, at a Netherlands medical facility, far from Indian shores.

Hantavirus's transmission dynamics differ from Covid's. It spreads through sputum droplets, or through people touching 'fomites' (objects contaminated by virus-laden rodent secretions). The virus doesn't form viral clouds that drift far. As it spreads only through 'intimate and close contact', as WHO states, potential for triggering a large-scale epidemic, is extremely low.

Hantavirus is transmitted to humans from rodents (mostly rats and mice). While rodents harbour the virus, they, themselves, are unharmed. When their excreta (urine, faeces and saliva) dry, virus-bearing dust is aerially transported into human lungs. There, the virus multiplies in epithelial cells lining the airways, and inside macrophages (immune system's frontline defenders), to spread through the lymphatic system.

Though 'discovered' by science around 75 years ago, Hantavirus is an ancient denizen of the microbial world. Prior to 1993, its assault on humans was only noted in Asia and Europe. In 1993, a couple from US's Navajo tribe died of a Hantavirus-related respiratory illness. Navajo oral tradition records that three mass-illness events, resembling Hantavirus-related acute respiratory disease, occurred between 1918 and 1934. Geneticists studying viral diseases suggest that Hanta had infected deer mice in the Americas long before humans populated those continents.

Different strains have distinctive geographical distributions and profiles. One strain inhabits the Americas, another dwells in Asia, Europe and Africa. The former causes serious pneumonia-like respiratory illness, called 'hantavirus pulmonary syndrome' (HPS). The latter attacks kidneys and blood vessels,

resulting in 'hantavirus haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome' (HFRS). The former is highly lethal, case-fatality rates of 35-50%, while the latter kills 1-15% of affected people. China and South Korea are the most affected in Asia. The virus gets its name from Korea's Hanta river.

Hanta is no stranger to India. The Thottapalayam strain was discovered in 1964, from a shrew in Vellore. In 2016, a 12-year-old boy, from Mumbai's Colaba, died from HPS. An epidemiological survey, conducted in Vellore, used blood tests to identify IgM and IgG anti-viral antibodies (early and late immunological responses respectively). This study tested patients with kidney disease, and people from a particularly vulnerable tribal group, traditionally snake and rat catchers.

In 2008, the researchers reported that 38 of 661 persons tested had revealed immunological evidence of prior Hantavirus infection. Estimating the actual number of serious illnesses or deaths attributable to Hantavirus will require routine immunological profiling of those hospitalised with clinical features of HFRS or HPS.

Since Covid, India's surveillance systems have been strengthened to detect pathogenic microbes. Trunat is a portable, battery-operated, real-time platform used for rapid molecular diagnosis of TB and other diseases. Since early 2026, it is available in CHCs and some PHCs. During Covid, India established INSACOG, a consortium of 38 national labs for genome sequencing. The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and One Health programme are geared for pathogen surveillance.

No anti-Hanta vaccines have been developed yet. There are no specific anti-viral drugs. In milder cases, treatment will be symptomatic – for fever, body aches and cough – while intensive care will be needed for severe cases. Affected persons are isolated till tests rule out an actively replicating virus, and contacts quarantined till incubation ends. Cases and contacts should wear masks till they're certified to be virus-free.

Since rats and mice are the viral transmitters, high priority must be accorded to domestic and municipal sanitation. Regular cleaning of floors will help remove any traces of rat excreta.

Did the holidaymakers on the cruise ship contract Hanta infection before they boarded, or while they were travelling on the ship? Its long incubation period – one to eight weeks but usually two to three weeks – makes it likely they were infected before boarding.

Either way, the virus became an unlisted passenger that killed three persons on board and infected several others. However, we can rest assured that the Andes virus has no visa to enter India.

The writer is a public health expert

Calvin & Hobbes

CIGARS ARE ALL THE RAGE, DAD. YOU SHOULD SMOKE CIGARS!
FLATULENCE COULD BE ALL THE RAGE, BUT IT WOULD STILL BE DISGUSTING.
I SEE.
NICELY PUT, DEAR.

Sacred*space*

Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Holistic Good Health Could Be Within Reach

Narayani Ganesh

At one time, say even two decades ago, ailments among those living in India were predominantly brought on by infections. Today, however, that number has been overtaken by lifestyle diseases.

According to a recent **TOI** report by Shiva Rajora, "Nearly half the population in India has reported cardiovascular and metabolic ailments such as hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and thyroid, compared with 31% a decade ago. The latest pan-India survey by National Statistics Office showed that in 2025, 25.6% of those surveyed reported cardiovascular ailments, compared to 16.7% during July 2017 to June 2018."

This could be why more people are turning to lifestyle-correcting techniques and practices such as yog, meditation, ahimsa, deep breathing, mindfulness, moderate diet that is mostly plant-based and detox methods to wean one away from substance abuse and lately, from digital and electronic addictions.

There is also the disturbing trend where in one day, a particular report exalts certain food items as health-enhancers, and another day, the same food items are trashed by another study as being bad for you. The way out of this confusion could be to follow moderation and portion control. Following a stable meal schedule might help, whichever school you follow. But lifestyle-related diseases are not just about food choices. Although it is said 'you are what you eat.' A lot also depends on physical and mental activities that lead to either unhealthy or healthy bodies and minds.

Moderate exercise, dancing and walking, are effective ways to burn calories as are routine, manual, household chores. A good diet and regular physical activity may take care of physical health. But mental health is a different ball game altogether. All negative emotions such as greed, jealousy, selfishness, anger, anxiety and stress may adversely impact one's mental space. These also have a bearing on physical health, since body and mind are closely connected and what impacts one is bound to impact the other.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Cultivating a positive attitude and outlook is crucial to one's well-being as well as the wellness of others. That is why a holistic approach is important for healing to happen. Mind and body need to be addressed together while trying to figure out treatments, whether in allopathy, ayurveda, Tibetan, Chinese, or any other system of medicine. Very often, it has been found that if the ailment is not of a critical nature, simple lifestyle and attitude changes can work wonders in the healing process.

Kindness, compassion, gratitude and selflessness play major roles in improving one's health, for these boost self-esteem, create goodwill. Positive vibrations that create more understanding, less acrimony, come back to you and help achieve harmony in relationships – with you and others and with your own self.

You can never go wrong with conscious eating, thinking and acting. It is said that you need just seventeen to twenty minutes each morning to set the tone for the day towards holistic good health, it is called the 5-7-5 rule.

Start with five minutes of positive affirmations. Meditate for the next seven minutes. The next five or more minutes dedicate to movement – yog, deep breathing, stretching, and/or Surya Namaskar. These bodily movements are at a relaxed pace, to mobilise the body after the first twelve minutes of stillness. This regular morning routine recharges mind, body and spirit, and helps you face the day in a calm, collected manner.

ganeshnarayani@yahoo.com

AI can do your work, but that's not why you will lose your job

The long run is too distant. Here's what AI is doing inside your job right now

Chandrima.Banerjee@timesofindia.com

How does technology change jobs? It can be understood by seeing what happened to two professions in the US — the typist and the bank teller.

In the 1970s, American offices wanted to make writing more efficient. So, they asked secretaries to stop typing, and moved that work to newly created pools of skilled typists — people whose job was to sit in a part of the office called a word processing centre and just type all day. But when the personal computer arrived, in the 1980s, typing could happen at any desk. And the typist disappeared.

When ATMs arrived, also in the 1970s, they should have done the same to bank tellers. Between 1995 and 2010, the number of ATMs in the US quadrupled from 100,000, and the number of tellers per branch fell. But because cheaper branches meant more branches, teller employment went up and their work changed — away from routine cash work, and towards customers, sales, and advice.

This is broadly how things have gone since organised work began. New technology either wipes out a whole job, like the typist's, or pushes it to grow into something else, like the teller's.

By now, AI has gotten good enough to do many parts of many jobs. But it hasn't led to the kind of job collapse that we have been warned about for the past three and a half years. Why is that?

AI Can Do Tasks, Not Always Whole Jobs

If you've read any analysis of what AI could do to jobs, you've probably read about AI exposure. Researchers break a job into tasks, and then ask if AI could do each task or speed it up enough. With those task scores, they get a rough idea of the extent to which AI pressure could show up in a line of work.

So, a high exposure job would be something with tasks that AI could largely do — like that of a data entry clerk. And a low exposure job would be something that AI couldn't do or do well — like that of a vehicle cleaner.

Recent economic impact reports from Anthropic and from OpenAI say there has been no "systematic" increase in unemployment for highly exposed workers.

Partly because exposure doesn't always mean quick change. And partly because many highly exposed jobs are more likely to be redesigned or expanded than immediately automated.

Companies Haven't All Adopted AI Quickly, Or Well

Every task that's theoretically possible to automate may not be actually automated right away.

A frequently cited job exposure research paper, for instance, identifies the work of authorising drug refills and providing prescription information to pharmacies as "fully exposed". AI can, theoretically, speed this up but it's not something that's actually being done yet.

Or consider a teacher. They may be highly exposed in lesson planning or content generation theoretically, but they still have to be physically present to teach students because of "relational and institutional necessity".

Also slowing down AI adoption for specific roles is what an MIT Sloan research paper called the "measurability gap". Economic progress, it says, has always rested on the implicit agreement: when someone said they produced something of value, they had to actually create something of value. But AI is "the first force in history capable of systematically breaking that compact" because of the gap between what AI can execute and what humans can afford to verify.

So, professions where this gap is most consequential — like medicine or engineering or judicial sentencing — are likely to be slower with AI adoption.

There's also the constraint of cost — an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) study found that AI adoption was "consistently lower" among smaller businesses (12%) than larger firms (40%). Smaller firms struggled with compute (resources to run AI) because of high costs and insufficient resources.

Even larger firms are considering the costs. Uber's CTO has said the company's AI budget for the year has been "blown away" already because of the costs of compute. And the Nvidia vice-president of applied deep learning said that, for his team, the cost of compute was turning out to be much more than the cost of employees.

As AI Makes Work Cheaper, Jobs May Grow — But Not Always

Even within American firms that use AI, only 5% reported any headcount impact — almost equally distributed between increases and decreases.

It's down to what the OpenAI report explains as demand elasticity. Say AI makes a service cheaper and easier to produce. That lower cost will likely increase demand. And so, firms may need just as many or maybe even more workers — even if each worker becomes far more productive.

It's happened before. In 2015, the US Bureau of Labor's job projections for the following decade estimated that the information sector would lose jobs because of technological changes that would need fewer people.

In reality, employment grew in information sector jobs — by 8% over the decade — because technology created more work in related jobs where demand was rising. Like cloud computing, cybersecurity, software, data centres, digital services.

The bureau now estimates that the information sector will have the third largest growth in salaried employment by 2034. The same logic shows up in many other jobs. For instance, it would seem logical that forensic science technicians would lose jobs over the next decade because AI could be faster at the actual analysis. But, technology improvements would also mean more physical evidence detection and, so, a greater demand for forensic science technicians. Or consider the work done by statisticians. The Bureau of Labor says demand for their work will increase because businesses will hire them to improve business processes and develop new products.

It's not all optimistic though. The OpenAI report adds that there could still be a point where AI automation does two things — it makes the costs of tasks much lower, and makes their output much more abundant. At that point, this sort of demand elasticity would be overwhelmed and, overall, there would be more automation and employment decline. But we're not there yet.

Who Is Better Placed To Adapt?

A study that came out in April studied the "task content" of jobs in 35 European countries, and found that AI adoption is faster in workspaces where employees have more education, do more non-routine thinking work, and — important in this context — have more say in how their work is organised.

Which means that workers most likely to turn AI into a tool and adapt to the changing needs of their jobs, with durable skills, are often the ones with enough autonomy in the first place. And research shows that between 1980 and 2015, about half of employment growth in the US took place in occupations where job titles or tasks performed by workers changed.

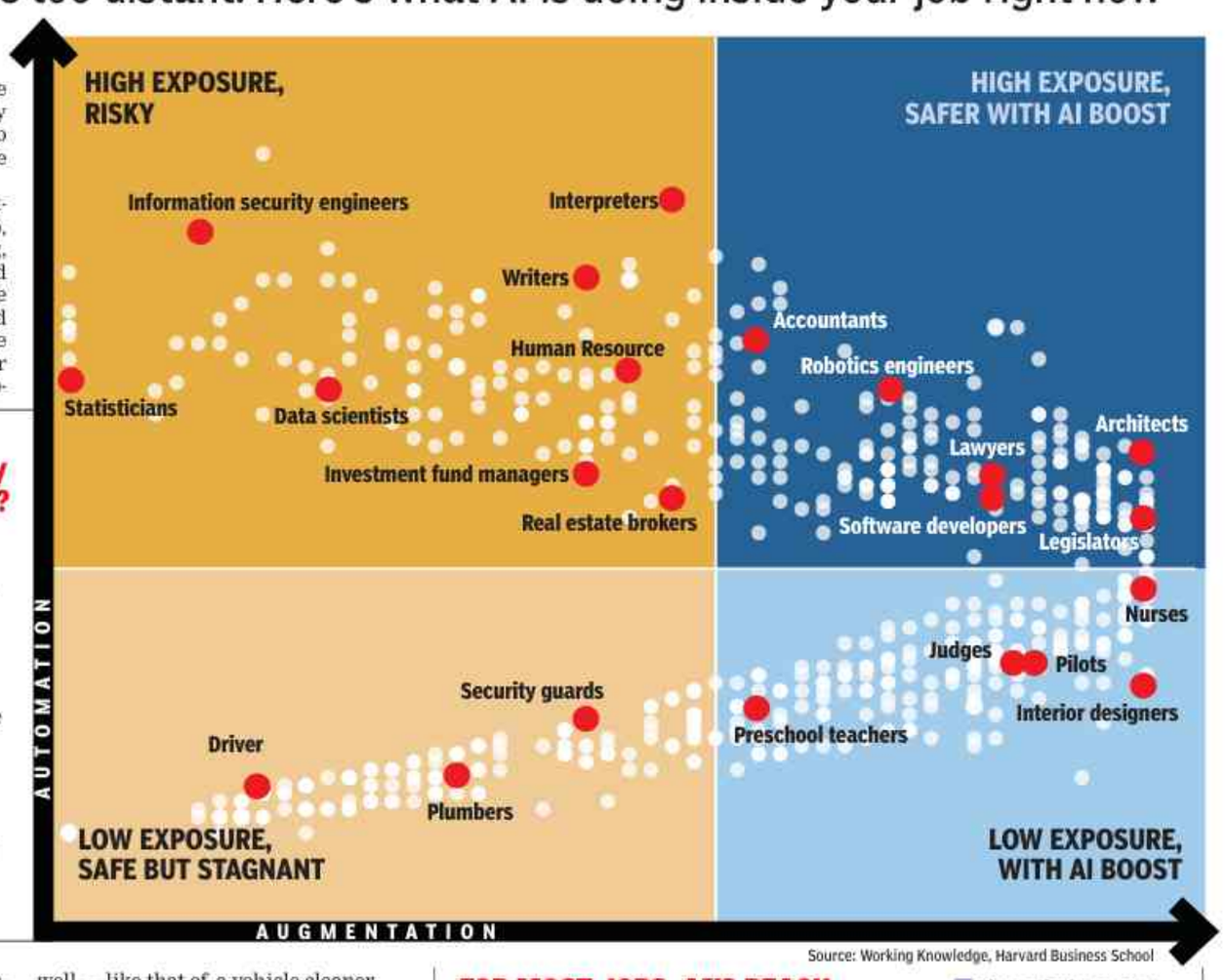
So, right now, the workers with the best odds are the ones who get to reshape their jobs while the change is still happening — and definitely better than those who meet the new job only after management has finished designing it. It might be the difference between becoming the teller rather than the typist.

For more on AI's impact on jobs right now, see 'The AI jobs transition framework' by OpenAI and Anthropic's 'Labor market impacts of AI: A new measure and early evidence'

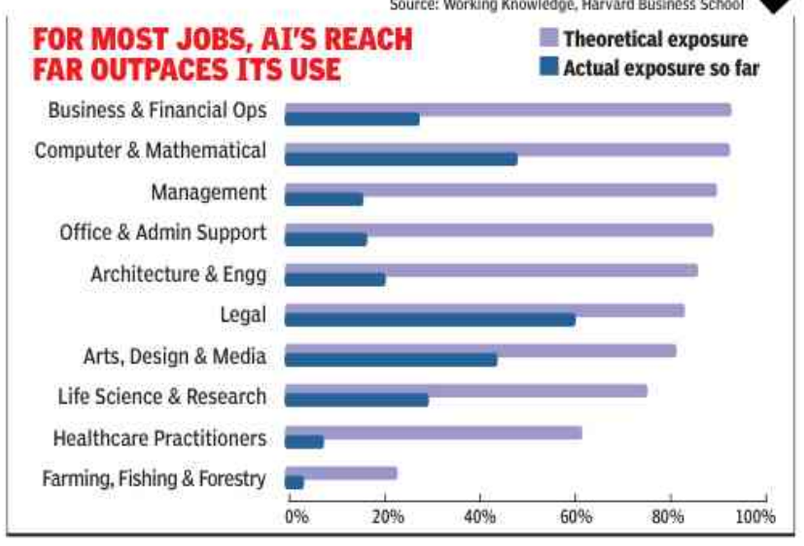
ARE YOU AUGMENTED/ AUTOMATED?

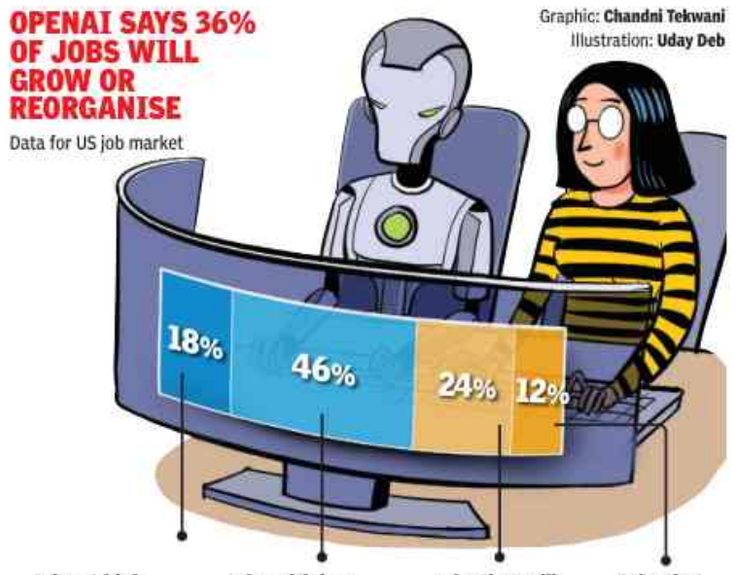
AI will shape jobs in two ways — by helping people do more, and/or by taking over tasks people do today. Balance between the two will decide each job's future

Degree of job risk varies within each quadrant, too, depending on level of automation & augmentation



Source: Working Knowledge, Harvard Business School





Graphic: **Chandni Tekwani**
Illustration: **Uday Deb**

TIMES NATION

Protecting accused's liberty doesn't mean neglecting victim's rights: SC

▶ Continued from page 1

The Madras high court got a thumbs-up from the bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi for taking the least time in deciding bail petitions. Though Allahabad HC is among those with high pendency of bail pleas, the bench appreciated the fact that sheer number of cases pending there was overwhelming, with judges having to hear nearly 200 bail pleas daily.

While emphasising that speedy hearing of bail petitions should not be at the cost of rights of victims of crimes, the bench issued a slew of directions, including automatic re-listing of bail petitions, which had already been entertained, for hearing at least once a fortnight through a software programme. While expediting the hearing of the bail plea, the SC said steps to protect liberty of accused did not mean neglecting attention to the rights of victims of crime. "Responsibility of probe agencies and prosecution is very important in victim-centric criminal cases where any laxity on their part could result in grant of bail to accused," it said.

CJI-led bench gave a thumbs-up to Madras HC for taking least time in deciding bail petitions

The bench said HCs would take steps to evolve a practice to discourage govt, probe agencies and prosecution from seeking adjournment of hearing, "reminding them about the court's solemn duty to protect the most precious fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution".

The bench suggested to HCs to have a portal giving status of pendency of bail plea to enable the accused, prosecution and court to take remedial steps for their disposal.

'You want to stall everything in the name of environment'

▶ Continued from page 1

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalaya Bagchi said the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report had found the apprehensions baseless and the National Green Tribunal also has since given a considered opinion green lighting the port expansion.

When Shenoy continued to emphasise that the NGT did not consider a series of deficiencies in the EIA report, the bench said port development activities are required for the progress of the country. "You want to stall everything in the name of environment. How can the country develop without infrastructure? No doubt precautionary measures are essential. But tell us where else the depth of the sea permits big ports as in Gujarat," it asked. While refusing to entertain the appeal against the NGT order, it permitted the environmentalist to move western zone NGT at Pune again pointing out the non-consideration of his objections to the project.

The counsel said 90% of fish landing off Saurashtra coast takes place at Pipavav and the expansion would be a death knell for economic activities connected to fishing. The bench said economic activity is not a consideration while preparing the EIA report. "Your basic objection was that it would disturb the turtle nesting area. The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has found your claim to be not true," the bench said.

The tribunal in its Nov 26 order had referred to the project's EIA report, noting that detailed studies showed no significant adverse impact.

Superbike hits car at 160kmph, leaves 5 dead in Telangana

Mahesh.Buddi
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Five persons, including two children, were killed when a Suzuki Hayabusa motorcycle crashed into a sedan on the Mahabubnagar bypass road in the early hours of Monday. Police said the superbike crashed into the car at 160 kmph, nearly three times the speed limit of 60 kmph, reportedly during a street race with a group of bikers.

Bike rider Mohammad Avez (29) and pillion rider Yakub Afzal (30) were killed on the spot, while three persons seated in the rear of the car — Arshiya Begum (28), her 18-month-old son Amer, and a 10-year-old named Huzaifa — succumbed to injuries in hospital.

PTI
Wreckage of a bike and a car is seen after they collided, on the Mahabubnagar bypass road

The car's occupants, from Palakonda, in Mahbubnagar, were returning home from a family gathering at Christianpally in Mahabubnagar town. "Arshiya Begum's husband, Basit, was driving the car. There were eight people in the car. Three of the occupants were killed on the spot while another three suffered minor injuries. Basit escaped unharmed," Mahabubnagar ASP NB Ratnam said, adding that the superbike ploughed into the rear left door of the Verna when the car driver was taking a right turn at a median.

Ratnam said Avez was the superbike's second owner and had purchased it from a person in Haryana. "The bike still sports a Haryana registration number. Avez had completed transfer of ownership recently but was yet to put the new plates on the bike," Ratnam said.

Police said overspeeding by the biker was the primary reason for the accident. "The speedometer needle was stuck at 160 kmph, indicating that Avez was riding at an even higher speed," the additional SP said. Police said they have preserved Avez's viscera to determine if he was under the influence of alcohol at the time.

Army gets kamikaze drone built by DRDO

New Delhi: To boost its drone attack capabilities, Indian Army has received two new indigenous combat systems --UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM) and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 First-Person View (FPV) Kamikaze Drone -- from Adani Defence & Aerospace under emergency procurement (EP-6), reports **Surendra Singh**.

Both systems have been indigenously designed, developed and manufactured, and have been successfully validated through high-altitude and electronic warfare trials.

Developed in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), ULPGM delivers highly accurate strikes.

The systems were handed over to Army's Western Command by Adani Defence & Aerospace some days ago.

SC: Won't interfere in CBI probe against Senthil

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday refused to interfere with Madras high court's order for a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in transformer tenders floated during the tenure of former Tamil Nadu electricity minister V Senthil Balaji between 2021-23.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta dismissed appeals filed against the HC order and asked the agency to conduct the investigation uninfluenced by the observations of Madras HC.

One of the appeals has been filed by Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco). Madras HC had directed a CBI probe on April 29 on a plea filed by NGO Arappor Iyakkam which alleged that 10 tenders issued for the procurement of transformers were manipulated to favour select bidders. TNN

Bullet train corridors could disrupt aviation market: Min

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Railway minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** on Monday said some of the upcoming high-speed rail (bullet train) corridors could disrupt the aviation market, holding that "nobody will fly" on shorter routes like Mumbai-Pune and Hyderabad-Bengaluru.

Speaking at CII Business Summit, he pointed out that the proposed bullet train project between Mumbai and Pune will cut down travel time to only 48 minutes; that between Pune and Hyderabad to 1 hour and 55 minutes; and one between Hyderabad and Bengaluru to 2 hours and 8 minutes. "These sectors will be out for airlines. I am reminding right away those who want to invest in airlines; please note it. These sectors will be 99% dominated by railways," Vaishnaw said.

He cited examples of Tokyo to Osaka and Tokyo to Nagoya sectors in Japan which see 99% domination by railways, with similar things happening in China and South Korea with availability of high-speed rail.

On Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project, the minister said the two cities and cities in between -- Surat, Anand, Vapi and Thane -- "will all become one city, one economy, one region because Mumbai to Ahmedabad will take 1 hour and 57 minutes." He added that the next phase of bullet train projects would be executed faster as govt has standardised processes.

Referring to ongoing conflict in West Asia and PM Narendra Modi's call for measures by citizens to overcome challenges emerging from the war, Vaishnaw said that due to a war between two countries, the entire world is being affected. Since the war is continuing and given the latest developments, "we all know that a truce is still far away, looking kind of difficult," he said.

He stressed that PM had asked people to make efforts to reduce expenditure on anything that requires foreign exchange. Simultaneously, there is a need to earn more foreign exchange.

Denominational head needs disciplinary power to keep flock together: Counsel

Dhananjay.Mahapatra@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: After 13 days of arguments spread over a month on the sensitive faith vs fundamental rights debate before a nine-judge Supreme Court bench, counsel favouring and opposing supremacy of religious faith have canvassed a common point — denominational heads must have disciplinary power to keep the flock together.

The debate ensued after the SC referred a bunch of pleas seeking review of its 2018 verdict quashing the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple custom barring entry of women in the 10-50-year age group.

During arguments, different counsel, appearing for Hindus, Muslims, Parsis and Dawoodi Bohras, caveated their agreement by saying disciplinary action by denominational heads could not breach an individual's fundamental rights.

Senior advocate Darius Khambata told the nine-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant that denial of right to perform last rites of parents of a Parsi woman, if she married a non-Parsi man, was violative of fundamental rights. Senior advocates Ravindra Srivastava and Raju Ramachandran said the Dawoodi Bohra denomination head could ruin a community member socially and financially if he disobeyed diktats.

All three agreed that a certain degree of disciplinary power must be made available to the denominational head, as in Sikhism, to keep the flock together. Ramachandran said Akal Takht had declared Maharaja Ranjit Singh, former President Zail Singh, former CM Surjit Singh Barnala, former home minister Buta Singh and SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal as 'tankhaiyas' (sinners) and directed them to perform community service (seva) to atone. Such disciplinary action was probably permissible, but in the Dawoodi Bohra community, there were instances where the denomination head had excommunicated a member of the community for contesting against a candidate approved by him, Ramachandran said.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichurn@yahoo.com Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in
Phone No:08532-226768 Fax No:08532-226316

No. CCR/ENG/TS/CF/2026-27 Date :06/05/2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ (KPPP 2.0 ವಿಧಾನದಲ್ಲಿ)

ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KPPP 2.0 ವಿಧಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದರಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಜಾಲತಾಣ (http://www.raichurcity.mrc.gov.in) ದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

Sl. No	Grant Details	Name of Work	Indent Number
1	DC Office GRANT	The Making, Supply and Erection of 12 feet Height bronze Statue of late Dr.B R.Ambedkar in Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs. 65.00 Lakhs.**	DMA/2026-27/IND6250
2	SFC Grant	Construction of Tensile Roofing Structure to Existing Gallery at Mahila Samaja Open Auditorium In Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs. 76.44 Lakhs.**	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57404/CALL-2
3	2026-27 Corporation Fund	Operation and Maintenance of street lights in ward no 1 to 35 in Raichur City. Estimate Cost Rs. 248.00 Lakhs.	DMA/2026-27/SE7840
4		LEAKAGE MAINTENANCE OF WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IN RAICHUR CITY CORPORATION. Estimate Cost Rs. 100.00 Lakhs.	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT58184
5		CONSTRUCTION OF DOG SHELTER AND ABC CENTRE IN RAICHUR CITY Estimate Cost Rs. 150.00 Lakhs.	DMA/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT58187

DIP/RCR/59KSMCA/61/2026-27

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Sr. DEE(G)/ Santragachi, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division acting on behalf of the President of India invites open tender through e-Tendering in **www.ireps.gov.in** website as per details mentioned below. Eligible contractors are requested to apply for the same through online only, in **www.ireps.gov.in** website. No offline tender will be accepted for this tender. Please read the tender document carefully uploaded in the document section for details. **Tender Notice No.: Elect-Chg-OT-26-27RMPU, Date: 08.05.2026. Name of the work:** Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Roof mounted Package units (RMPUs) of LHB/ SG AC Coaches for a period of three (3) years at the Coaching Maintenance Depots (Santragachi, Shalimar and Padmapukar). **Tender Value:** ₹ 15,08,49,741.07. **EMD/ Bid Security:** ₹ 30,17,000. **Tender Document Cost:** Nil. **Tender closing date & time:** 29.05.2026, 11.00 hrs. Tender Notice, tender document and other details are given in the **www.ireps.gov.in.**

(PR-154)

POWER COMPANY OF KARNATAKA LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka undertaking) (CIN: U40101KA2007SGC043640)
4th Floor, INDHANA BHAVANA, Race Course Road Bengaluru - 560009.

No. PCKL/AD(P)/JD(P)/DD(Civil)/2026-27/820 Date: 11.05.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP mode only)

PCKL Invites tender for Hiring Vehicles Services through KPP Portal

Name of the work	EMD Amount in Rs.
Hiring of three (03) no's of Innova Vehicles for the Office use in PCKL, Indhana Bhavana, Bangalore **(2nd Call).**	23,000/-

Further details of the tender can be obtained from website: **https://www.pckl.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "e-Procurement (KPPP Portal)" from **12.05.2026.** The last date for submission of bid in KPP Portal is on or before **26.05.2026.**

Note: Any charges, addendum, corrigendum will be notified in e-Procurement only, and will not be published in newspaper.

Sd/-
Additional Director (Projects)
PCKL, Bengaluru

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र-प्रथम-जोधपुर

Tele - 0291-2651750 E-Mail : rj_acejo@nic.in

क्रमांक: अमुअ /क्षेत्र-प्रथम /जो./2026-27/1105-16 दिनांक :- 7/5/26

बिड संशोधन सूचना संख्या 3, NIB 20/2025-26

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी की गई निविदा संख्या 20/2025-26 में निविदा तिथियो में संशोधन करते हुए बिड संशोधन जारी किया जा कर https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं https://spp.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड किया गया।

NIT No.20/2025-26 (UBIN-PHE2526WLOB15970, E-proc ID- 2026_PHCJO_549181_1)

Sd/-
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, क्षेत्र-प्रथम-जोधपुर

DIPR/C/8183/2026

DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

(A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise)

"This is to notify that DFCCIL has uploaded an open Tender Notification No.-ED-P&CM/EN/Noida Unit/MMLH-Dadri/2025-26/01 Dated 11.05.2026, for the Work of Construction of Rail Flyover Between Multi Model Logistic Hub (MMLH) Dadri and WDFC New Dadri Station at Greater Noida, on E tender Portal - IREPS. The Tender advertised Value is Rs. 4,69,22,30,870.46/-. Interested bidders may access the same on IREPS Website **https://www.ireps.gov.in.**" Corrigendum/ addendum will be posted on above websites only.

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned by Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Vidyut Bhavana, Gopanakoppa, HUBBALLI-580023.
E-mail: seepmc.hescom@gmail.com
eepmc1.hescom@gmail.com ; eep3.hescom@gmail.com
website: www.hescom.karnataka.gov.in
CIN No: U31401KA2002SGCO30437

No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P1&P3/AEE-2&3/2026-27/CYS-1385 Date: 11-05-2026

Tender Notification (Through K.P.P.P. Portal Only)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites the below said tenders on lumpsum Basis in HESCOM jurisdiction.

1) Particulars: Reconductoring of 11KV Lines.

Bid indent No for SC Category: HESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 1120, 1121, 1131, 1149 & 1200 **(5 Packages).**

Bid indent No for ST Category: HESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 1130 & 1177 **(2 Packages).**

Bid indent No for CAT-II-A: HESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 1134, 1147 & 1175 **(3 Packages).**

Bid indent No for Others: HESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 1118, 1119, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1132, 1133, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1148, 1176, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206 & 1207 **(55 Packages).**

2) Particulars: Construction of 11kV link lines from existing Substations.

Bid indent No for SC Category: HESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 1161 **(1Package).**

Bid indent No for CAT-I: HESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 1163 **(1 Package).**

Bid indent No for CAT-II-A: HESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 1098 & 1174 **(2 Packages).**

Bid indent No for Others: 1150, 1151, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1152, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1162, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172 & 1173 **(22 Packages).**

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **5 PM of 11.05.2026.**

DIPR/DWD/DISHA/161/2026-27

Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Project Monitoring Cell, HESCOM, Hubli.

TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED
तेनुघाट विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड

(A GOVT. OF JHARKHAND UNDERTAKING)
CIN U40101JH1987SGC013153
ABD Area, Smart City, Dhurwa, RANCHI-834004, JHARKHAND

Letter No:- 162/2026-27 Date:- 11/05/2026

e-TENDER NOTICE

Online tender in two parts (Part-I Technical & Commercial Bid and Part-II Price Bid to be submitted in TVNL Website Only) are invited on behalf of TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED, Ranchi from reputed, experienced and financially sound firms for under mentioned work at TTPS, Lalpania.

S. No.	NIT No./RFx. No.	Description	Last date & Time of purchase of Tender paper	Last date & Time for Submission	Due date & Time of opening of Part-I
01.	08/OP/P/TVNL/RAN/2025-26 RFx. No-1000013672	Supply of 110 MT of Caustic Soda Lye (100% basis). Specification: Pure / Rayon grade Confirming to IS No: 252-1991/1973 (3rd Revision) & Reaffirmed 1996 with Concentration: 46% to 48% (100% equivalent NaOH) basis.	3rd June 2026 up to 16:00 Hrs	4th June 2026 up to 14:00 Hrs	4th June 2026 at 16:00 Hrs

Bid documents are to be submitted online through SAP-SRM, TVNL website:-webdispatcher.tvnl.in/srmprd up to last date and time of bid submission. The tender documents can be downloaded from our website www.tvnl.in

Sd/-
(R. Ranjan)
ESE (C&M)

PR 379476 Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (26-27)_D

SANJAY GANDHI POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Raebareli Road, Lucknow-226014 (U.P.)
Phone No.: 91 (0522): 2494042, 2494040, E-mail: irfreport@sgpgi.ac.in

Investigation Revolving Fund (IRF)
e-Tender Notice

Online e- bids are invited in two-bid system (1) Technical bid & (2) Price bid from reputed & genuine manufacturers / authorized primary importers for following items for entering into Rate Contract.

Installation of maintenance free equipments at no cost basis against the purchase of reagents & consumables namely:-

(1) Fully Automated Flash Chemiluminescence Analyzer, Department of Microbiology (Tender ref. no.: 153-201012/2/2026-PGI IRF)
(2) Fully Automated Chemiluminescence Immunoassay Analyzer, Department of Microbiology (Tender ref. no.: 153-201012/3/2026-PGI IRF)
(3) Fully Automated Chemiluminescence/Electrochemiluminescence (CLIA/ECLIA) Analyzer, Department of Endocrinology (Tender ref. no.: 153-201012/4/2026-PGI IRF)
(4) Fully Automated / Semi-automated bench-top Osmometer, Department of Endocrinology (Tender ref. no.: 153-201012/5/2026-PGI IRF)
(5) Fully Automated Immunohematology Analyzer for compatibility testing, Department of Transfusion Medicine (Tender ref. no.: 153- 201012/6/2026-PGI IRF)
(6) Fully Automated Immuno-hematology Analyzer for Red cell Serology, Department of Transfusion Medicine (Tender ref. no.: 153- 201012/7/2026-PGI IRF)
(7) Portable DNA/RNA Sequencing System, Department of Nephrology (Tender ref. no.: 153-201012/8/2026-PGI IRF)
(8) Quantitative viral load platform for HCV RNA & HBV DNA, Department of Gastroenterology (Tender ref. no.: 153-201012/9/2026- PGI IRF)
(9) Fully Automated Biochemistry Analyzer, Department of Hepatology (Tender ref. no.: 153-201012/10/2026-PGI IRF)
(10) Fully Automated Immunostainer, Department of Pathology (Tender ref. no.: 153-201012/11/2026-PGI IRF)
(11) Fully Automated Chemiluminescence technology based system, Department of Hematology (Tender ref. no.: 153-201012/12/2026- PGI IRF)

The detailed terms & conditions of the e-Tender Notice can be downloaded from e-Tender website: **https://etender.up.nic.in** from **13.05.2026**. The last date of submission of offer / bid is **11.06.2026 at 16.00 hrs** through online mode only. Tender fee & EMD are to be submitted online transaction as per terms & conditions mentioned in tender document .The Director reserves the sole right to accept or reject any bid partially or fully without assigning any reasons.

Advt. No.: I/11/IRF/2026-27 **DIRECTOR**

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Ph: 9448994705, Email ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org

CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-2)/M(P-1)/2026-27/3401 Date: 07.05.2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)

CESC,Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for the service as mentioned below

Sl.No	Services & Materials	Enquiry No
1	Providing Jeep/4-Wheel drive vehicle /Equivalent vehicles service along with driver to Madikeri O & M division of Chamarajanagara–kodagu Circle CESC on monthly rental basis for a period of FOUR Months.	CESCOM/2026-27/Se0273

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **07.05.2026.** For clarification contact help desk **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail address support@eprochelpdesk.com**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

DIPR/MYSORE/162/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27 **Sd/- General Manager (Procurement),CESC, Mysuru.**

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

S. No : JDA/EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-I/2026-27 Dated : 08.05.2026

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-I/06/2026-27

Bids are invited from interested bidders for following works :-

S. No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	Nature of Work	Last Date
1	JDA2627WLOB00050	962.31	Road	29.05.2026
2	JDA2627WLOB00049	2235.41	Road	04.06.2026
3	JDA2627WSOB00048	329.45	Road	27.05.2026
4	JDA2627WLOB00053	617.99	Road	30.05.2026
5	JDA2627WLOB00052	658.20	Road	27.05.2026
6	JDA2627WSOB00056	230.82	Boundary wall	28.05.2026

Other particulars of the respective bid may be visited on Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in.

Executive Engineer &
TA to Dir.Engg-I

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2460

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-01/180-1/2026-27 Date: 11.05.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid License issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : 1) Maintenance of 15M wide road from Mahalbagyath Main Road to Aliyabad Block-I Road at Mahalbagyath Industrial Area, Vijayapura District. **2)** Construction of New Road and Drain in KIADB Area at Humnabad in Humnabad Taluk, Bidar District. **3)** Providing Over Head Height Barrier at Various Locations at Kadechur Badiyal Industrial Area, Yadagiri District (4th Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **27.05.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2,
KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/601/Zen/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli & Arakere Division, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068.

No:BSEE/EE/B&AD/TEND-03/2026-27 Date: 11-05-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Single Cover Tender)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) The Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli & Arakere Division, South Zone-2,BSCC, Bengaluru-68 invites tenders from eligible contractors registered In Bengaluru South City Corporation, Bengaluru or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/MES/Railways/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. (Standard Tender Document KW-2 & KW-3)

Sl No.	Name of the work / Category
1.	Construction and Improvements of selected roads and RCC drains in Balaji Layout & Munireddy surrounding areas in ward No. 219 Hongasandra. **Estimate Amount ₹.70.00 Lakhs, EMD ₹. 1,40,000.00 (Others)**
2.	Construction and Improvements of selected roads and RCC drains in Gharebhavipalya & surrounding areas in Ward No.220 Gharebhavipalya. **Estimate Amount ₹.80.00 Lakhs, EMD ₹. 1,60,000.00 (Others)**
3.	Construction of foundation for the building for classes 1 to 8 at Government Model Primary School Hongasandra. **Estimate Amount ₹.50.00 Lakhs, EMD ₹. 1,00,000.00 (Others)**

Calendar of Events :(1)The Tender document can be downloaded from the KPP portal on before **14-05-2026** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **18-05-2026** at **3:00** pm (3) Last Date Submission of tender documents on or before **22-05-2026** at **4:00** pm. (4) Technical / Financial Bid will be opened on **25-05-2026** after **11:30** am.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Bommanahalli & Arakere Division, BSCC

11001/46/2627

VIKRAM DEV UNIVERSITY

JEYPORE, DIST- KORAPUT, ODISHA, PIN-764001
(A STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ODISHA UNIVERSITY ACT, 1989)
www.vikramdevuniversity.ac.in

No: 1098/Esst./2026 Date : 05.05.2026

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications in online mode are invited from eligible Indian Citizens as per UGC eligibility criteria (UGC Notification No. F.1-2/2017(EC/PS), New Delhi 18th July, 2018) to fill up the **Regular Faculty Positions of Professor(14)/ Associate Professor(32)** and **Assistant Professor(64)** in the following departments of this university.

Faculty Positions and Number of Vacancies

		Professor [Pay Level-14 as per 7th CPC]					Associate Professor [Pay Level-13 A as per 7th CPC]					Assistant Professor [Pay Level-10 as per 7th CPC]				
SL No	Name of the Department/ Subject	Total No. of Posts	UR	ST	SC	SEBC	Total No. of Posts	UR	ST	SC	SEBC	Total No. of Posts	UR	ST	SC	SEBC
1	Anthropology						1	1				2	1	1		
2	Botany	1	1				2	1	1			4	2		1	1
3	Chemistry	1		1			2	1		1		4	2	1	1	
4	Commerce	1	1				2	1			1	4	2	1		1
5	Economics	1			1		2	1	1			4	2	1	1	
6	Education						1			1		2	1	1		
7	English	1	1				2	1	1			4	2		1	1
8	Geography						1	1				2	1	1		
9	History	1				1	2	1			1	4	2	1	1	
10	Home Science	1	1				2	1	1			4	2	1		1
11	Mathematics	1		1			2	1		1		4	2	1	1	
12	Odia	1	1				2	1	1			4	2		1	1
13	Philosophy	1			1		2	1		1		4	2	1	1	
14	Physics	1	1				2	1			1	4	2	1		1
15	Political Science	1		1			2	1	1			4	2	1	1	
16	Sociology	1	1				2	1		1		4	2	1		1
17	Statistics						1		1			2	1		1	
18	Zoology	1				1	2	1			1	4	2	2		
	TOTAL	14	7	3	2	2	32	16	7	5	4	64	32	15	10	7

NB: "Reservation" of Posts @ 33% for Women, 4% for PwD and 1% for the Sports Persons shall be filled up on merit as per the prescribed principles and guidelines of the Govt. of Odisha.

General terms, Essential Qualifications and condition for recruitment of the Teaching Posts.

1. The University is governed by the rules and regulations of Govt. of Odisha in respect of the age of superannuation and reservation.
2. Appointment to the posts will be made as per the University Act and Statute. Pay and other allowance as applicable to faculty members will be admissible as sanctioned by the Government of Odisha from time to time.
3. Minimum qualifications and selection for direct recruitment as an Assistant Professor/ Associate Professor/ Professor is as per UGC Regulations Notification No. F.1-2/2017(EC/PS), New Delhi, the 18th July, 2018 and as amended from time to time.
4. The selection committee shall be as per UGC Regulations Notification No. F.1-2/2017(EC/PS), New Delhi, the 18th July, 2018 and the pay structure shall be as approved by Govt. of Odisha.
5. All other conditions shall be mutatis mutandis as per the Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha.

The filled in application, should be submitted Online in the HIMS portal- on the link **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/** available from **12.05.2026** onwards, complete in all respect along with supporting documents by **10.06.2026** 11:59PM and signed printout of the downloaded application with all the certificates, mark sheets documents should be sent only through **Registered/ Speed Post** to **The Registrar, Vikram Dev University, Jeypore, Dist- Koraput, Odisha, PIN- 764001** so as to reach on or before **20.06.2026** by 5.00 P.M.

For other details, please visit **www.vikramdevuniversity.ac.in.**

Application Processing Fee (Non-Refundable) to be paid online along with the online submission of application

Sl. No.	Category	Amount
1	UR, SEBC	2000.00
2	ST/SC/ PwD and Women	1000.00

Bank details & link for online payment.

Current Account No:-	11312175579
Name of the Bank:-	STATE BANK OF INDIA, MAIN BRANCH, JEYPORE
IFSC Code:-	SBIN0000101
Name of the A/c Holder	Registrar, Vikram Dev University, Jeypore

Important Dates

i. Opening of online application portal : **12.05.2026 (10:00 AM)**
ii. Closing of online application portal : **10.06.2026 (11:59 PM)**
iii. Closing date of receiving the hard copy of the application : **20.06.2026 (05:00PM)**

Corrigendum, if any, shall be posted on the university website: www.vikramdevuniversity.ac.in only. The candidates are advised to visit the university website from time to time and remain updated.

OIPR-11001/11133/1/26-27/0002

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru – 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No.: IADB/ENGG/EIA/ENTD-EC-01/0175/2026-27 Date:11.05.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER TO PROVIDE CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE (EC)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender under two cover system for providing consultancy service from Environmental Consultant of NABET under 7(C) category with NABET & NABL Accredited Consultant / NABET Consultancy MoU with NABL Accredited Consultant are eligible to participate in this tender.

Name of the Work: "Consultancy Services for the work of to carryout EIA, SIS Studies etc., to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)/ Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate Change (MoEF&CC) and Consent for Establishment (CFE) from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board(KSPCB) and submission of Half Yearly compliance report for all the conditions of EC & CFE for 3 years for the Tidagundi Industrial Area, Vijayapura Taluk & District".

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **26.05.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

DIPR/CP/JA/598/2026-27

"MUMBAI INDIANS' SENIOR PLAYERS HAVE GIVEN EVERYTHING THEY HAD. NOW, IT MAY BE THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOUNGER PLAYERS A CHANCE. THAT WILL HELP THE FRANCHISE UNDERSTAND HOW THESE YOUNGSTERS HANDLE PRESSURE."
—Sunil Gavaskar | Indian legend

DC ENJOY THRILL OF THE CHASE

Axar, Miller & Ashutosh Help Delhi Hunt Down 211-Run Target Vs Punjab, Keep Hopes Alive

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

Anindya Chattopadhyay

WINNING MOMENT: DC's Madhav Tiwari (left) and Auqib Nabi exult as Yash Thakur of PBKS is dejected in Dharamshala

Dharamshala: For 15 overs, Punjab Kings had the game exactly where they wanted it. Delhi Capitals were bruised at 33/3, shaken again at 74/4 and chasing 211 on a challenging Dharamshala surface seemed like a mountain too high to climb. The crowd sensed the kill. Punjab's quicks sensed collapse, and the match seemed to be moving only in one direction. Then Delhi started stealing overs. Not the loud, frantic kind of theft T20 cricket often produces, but the calculated kind. One boundary here, one over flipped there, one partnership dragging their belief back from the dead.

By the time Punjab realised, Axar Patel had already smashed open the door and David Miller had the chase in his "arc". The DC lower order turned into their accomplice. What followed was one of the most audacious chases of IPL-2026, as DC emerged victorious by three wickets with an over to spare. Axar's 56 off 30 balls changed the emotional temperature of the game. Punjab had reduced Delhi to survival mode but Axar dragged them back into the fight with pure force.

Miller then did what Miller has done across T20 leagues for more than a decade. His 51 off 28 balls, studded with three fours and four sixes, gave Delhi the confidence and hope they desperately needed. But it was Delhi's lower middle order that refused to cave in.

Ashutosh Sharma arrived swinging, blasting 24 off just 10 balls with two fours and two sixes, before Madhav Tiwari delivered the perfect finishing subplot. Earlier in the evening, the young allrounder had picked up 2/40 to stop Punjab from reaching something even more intimidating. Then, under pressure that would test more young players, he struck an unbeaten 18 off eight balls that tilted the chase decisively Delhi's way.

And when Punjab still hoped for one final twist, Auqib Nabi ended it in two swings — a four and a six in his unbeaten 10 off two balls — sealing a three-wicket win.

Earlier, on a Dharamshala surface that had just enough life to keep the seamers interested, Punjab Kings openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh decided the best form of negotiation was outright dismissal of risk. In the first three overs itself, the duo forced Delhi Capitals to abandon conventional plans, racing to 51 without loss and, in effect, setting the tone for everything that followed.

Priyansh (56 off 33b; 2x4, 6x6) announced his intent with a pair of sixes that were less agricultural slog and more calculated in nature. Lungi Ngidi was treated similarly soon after. Two more sixes, another boundary and suddenly Delhi Capitals were reacting instead of planning at the HPCA Stadium on Monday evening.

What stood out was not merely the aggression but the clarity. Priyansh, coming off two quiet outings, didn't go into a shell despite the failures. There is something wonderfully uncomplicated about him at the moment. He sees length early, trusts his swing arc and does not overthink reputation. However, the knock wasn't to come in a winning cause as Capitals stole the limelight.

39 Overs bowled by pacers, the second-most bowled by fast bowlers in an IPL match behind the 39.4 overs bowled in the game between RCB & CSK in Bengaluru on Apr 28, 2008.

SCOREBOARD

PBKS: P Arya c Parakh b Tiwari 56, P Singh c Nabi b Mukesh 18, S Iyer not out 59, C Connolly c Miller b Tiwari 38, M Stoinis c Tiwari b Starc 1, S Singh c Axar b Starc 0, S Shedge not out 21; **Extras: (b4, w11, nb2) 17; Total: (5 wkts, 20 ovrs) 210; FoW:** 1-78, 2-97, 3-180, 4-187, 5-187; **Bowling:** Starc 4-0-57-2, Dar 4-0-32-0, Ngidi 4-0-46-0, Mukesh 4-0-31-1, Tiwari 4-0-40-2.

DC: KL Rahul c Jansen b Arshdeep 9, A Porel b Thakur 5, S Parakh c Chahal b Arshdeep 13, T Stubbs run out 12, A Patel c Dwarshius b Stoinis 56, D Miller c Prabhsimran b Dwarshius 51, A Sharma c Dubey b Thakur 24, M Tiwari not out 18, A Dar not out 10; **Extras: (w17, nb1) 18; Total: (7 wkts, 19 ovrs) 216; FoW:** 1-10, 2-14, 3-33, 4-74, 5-138, 6-170, 7-205; **Bowling:** Arshdeep 4-0-21-2, Thakur 4-0-55-2, Jansen 4-0-45-0, Dwarshius 4-0-51-1, Stoinis 3-0-44-1.

Result: DC won by 3 wickets

210-5 Punjab Kings have recorded their highest total batting first vs Delhi Capitals in the IPL, bettering the 206/8 in Jaipur on May 24, 2025.

56 Priyansh Arya's first fifty vs Delhi Capitals is his fifth in the IPL.

211 Target successfully achieved by DC (216-7) is their second highest in a successful chase in the IPL behind the 226/3 vs RR in Jaipur on May 1, 2026.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
RCB	11	7	4	0	1.103	14
SRH	11	7	4	0	0.737	14
GT	11	7	4	0	0.228	14
PBKS	11	6	4	1	0.428	13
CSK	11	6	5	0	0.185	12
RR	11	6	5	0	0.082	12
DC	12	5	7	0	-0.993	10
KKR	10	4	5	1	-0.169	9
MI	11	3	8	0	-0.585	6
LSG	11	3	8	0	-0.907	6

TIME TO ASK APOLLO AI
COOLER COUGH
Unclean room cooler water breeds lung-infecting bacteria in just 48 hours.
Scan to breathe clean air
For any Health Query Chat with
Ask Apollo AI
Apollo AI: Clinical excellence for healthier India

Mahela says ousted MI 'not good enough'

Core Group Is Quite Valuable For Us, Can't Just Keep Changing: Head Coach

Chitrangada.C
@timesofindia.com

Mahela Jayawardene with captain Hardik Pandya, who was out with a bad back

Raipur: Mumbai Indians' playoff hopes came to an end after a narrow two-wicket defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru here on Sunday, marking the fourth time in the last six seasons — after 2021, 2022 and 2024 — that the five-time champions have failed to progress beyond the league stage. The loss, their eighth in 11 matches this season, left head coach Mahela Jayawardene disappointed as he admitted that MI had not done enough across the campaign.

"It's disappointing. We've had our opportunities. We were not good enough," Jayawardene said at the post-match press conference. "We were not consistent enough with the ball, with the bat. That showed in the margins. We were probably two, three wins away from being in the same group of contenders to get into that playoff."

He also brushed aside suggestions that frequent changes had hurt the team's momentum, pointing instead to injuries and niggles that forced the management's hand. "I don't think it was chopping and changing," he said. "We had a lot of injuries, a lot of niggles, guys getting injured, not available. Those were mostly forced changes."

Asked if it was worthwhile to keep backing some underperforming senior players, Mahela said, "They're also trying to do their best. The commitment, the effort that they're putting in is unbelievable. With Ro (Rohit Sharma) getting injured and coming back and batting the way he batted, it sums up. The core group is quite valuable for us. You can't just keep changing. We went with the trust, the confidence that we had with them."

MI had RCB under pressure for long stretches and believed they could defend a target of 167 after Tilak Varma (57 off 42) and Naman Dhir (47 off 32) had lifted them to 166/7 despite Bhuvneshwar Kumar's 4/23. But Krunal Pandya's 73 off 46 balls kept RCB in contention.

Reflecting on Krunal's contribution, Jayawardene noted that he "used to play similar roles for us as well while he was in MI," and highlighted the experience Krunal brings to an IPL game. He described Krunal's performance as the defining innings in the chase, especially for maintaining a strong tempo throughout.

MI were left to defend with limited options at the death and Jayawardene explained that the side had run out of experienced bowling resources. Even so, he felt the team was in the contest until the end. "All our experienced bowlers had bowled their quota at that time. We didn't have anyone left," he said. "I was pleased with the way we fought. It was a game of margins, probably should have executed a bit better at the end."

He added that captain Hardik Pandya was unavailable because of a "back issue" and remains under medical observation.

Dravid to co-own Dublin franchise in European T20 League

Former India captain and coach Rahul Dravid has been named as a co-owner of the Dublin franchise in a new European Twenty20 league, with the 53-year-old being part of an Indian consortium that acquired the team in the tournament set to launch in September.

Dravid is the latest former cricketer to be named among the owners in the six-team European T20 Premier League (ETPL), which will also have teams based in Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

The Irish team will be called the Dublin Guardians, ETPL organisers revealed on Monday. REUTERS

SRH take on GT with eye on playoffs

Sabu.Cherian@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: A high-stakes clash of contrasting T20 philosophies — one built on sustained aggression, the other on a more measured, methodical approach — is in the offing when Gujarat Titans host Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Tuesday.

GT, riding a four-match winning streak, will look to strengthen their position in the playoff race as the tournament enters the business end. SRH, also on 14 points like the Titans, arrive with momentum from their 33-run win over Punjab Kings.

The Titans produced a near-complete performance against Rajasthan Royals, with Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan setting up the innings before Washington Sundar and Rahul Tewatia added the finishing touches. Although Vaibhav Sooryavanshi gave the Royals a fast start in the chase, Gujarat's experienced bowling group — led by Rashid Khan, Kagiso Rabada and Jason Holder — took control to seal a 77-run win.

SRH, too, are coming off a strong all-round display. Against PBKS, their top order again set the tone, with Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen all contributing to a total of 235/4 before Pat Cummins and the bowling unit closed out the game.

How GT's new-ball pair of Siraj and Rabada operate against Head and Abhishek could decide the direction of the contest. If SRH survive that early burst, they have Kishan, Klaasen and Nitish Kumar Reddy to carry the pressure into the middle and death overs. That makes Gujarat's post-Powerplay options — Rashid, Holder, Washington and Sai Kishore — central to the tactical battle.

GT's top order has also tweaked its approach. Gill, instead of taking time to settle, has looked to score from ball one, helping the Titans lift the Powerplay scoring rate. The middle order, which had been under scrutiny earlier in the season, has also started making timely contributions, with Washington and Tewatia playing important cameos in the win over the Royals.

WEATHER
41°C

5 GT have won the last five IPL matches (out of six played) vs SRH.

101 Shubman Gill's knock off 58 balls on May 15, 2023. It remains the only hundred in matches involving the two teams.

— **Stats:** Rajesh Kumar

Still swinging it: Bhuvi enjoys second wind at RCB

Thirteen Years After His T20I Debut, The 36-Year-Old Is Still Adapting, Still Succeeding In A Format Increasingly Hostile To Bowlers

Chitrangada.C
@timesofindia.com

126 Wickets taken by **Bhuvneshwar Kumar** in winning causes, a record by a pacer in the IPL.

Raipur: On a Dec evening at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru in 2012, a young Uttar Pradesh pacer announced himself to international cricket with a dream T20I debut against Pakistan. Swinging the new ball with remarkable control, Bhuvneshwar Kumar returned figures of 3/9.

More than 13 years later, in a format that has tilted further towards batters, Bhuvneshwar remains not just relevant but among the most effective, as he has shown in the IPL this season. Once a young swing-bowling prospect, he now stands as a study in craft, discipline and constant reinvention.

At 36, he has 21 wickets from 11 matches and leads the IPL wicket charts this season, a significant marker in a competition where 200-plus totals no longer feel safe and bowlers are challenged every over. For Bhuvneshwar, survival in modern T20 cricket has come down to one thing: constant evolution. "My skills and the mental aspect of my game have changed a lot. What also changed is accepting situations quickly. The way batters are coming at you now is very different from what it used to be 10 years ago. Accepting things quickly probably helped me," the pacer explained.

That adaptability has become essential in a tournament that now barely resembles the IPL's early years. Batters now attack from ball one, unconventional strokes have become mainstream and even good deliveries regularly disappear into the stands. "Five years ago, if you gave 40 runs, I used to think it was a bad day," admitted Bhuvneshwar, who returned match-winning figures of 4/23 against MI on Sunday and struck a crucial six in the final over. "Now, if you give 40 runs, I consider it good bowling! Earlier, 200 felt like a winning score. Now, when teams chase 200, it feels like it's 'just 200'," he said.

Despite the changing demands, Bhuvneshwar has remained one of the league's most trusted fast bowlers, operating in both the Powerplay and at the death. Having not played internationally since Nov 2022, the former India pacer insists there is no magic formula behind his longevity. Instead, he credits discipline and consistency for helping him stay ahead.

"Motivation is overrated," he said. "It's discipline. You are tired, you don't want to go, but still you have to go. That consistency — doing things day in and day out — makes you consistent on the field as well." Age, though, has brought physical challenges. "When you are young, recovery takes less time compared to this age," he said. "Physically, it is tougher but mentally it becomes easier because you are mature and experienced. You understand your game much better."

Even as a younger generation of fearless batters continues to redefine T20 cricket, Bhuvneshwar remains convinced that bowlers will keep finding ways to respond. "Batters do something, then bowlers evolve. That is how cricket has always worked," he said.

Bhuvneshwar's RCB journey has also come full circle. He was around the franchise's setup in 2009 and 2010 as a young domestic cricketer before returning in 2025 as one of the country's most experienced pacer. "Everything changed for me," he said. "At that time, I was a domestic player. First time into the setup, I was just looking at the glamorous side of it. I was nervous looking at other players, overseas players. But now it's changed a lot because now a big part of being in the team is being a senior player."

BHUVNESHWAR, IPL COLOSSUS

	M	Wkts	Ave	Best	4WI	5WI	SR	ER
Overall	201	219	26.17	5/19	3	2	20.4	7.67
In wins	92	126	21.72	5/19	3	1	16.7	7.78
Best years in terms of wicket-aggregate								
2017	14	26	14.19	5/19	0	1	12	7.05
2016	17	23	21.3	4/29	1	0	17.2	7.42
2026	11	21	15.28	4/23	1	0	12.2	7.46
2014	14	20	17.7	4/14	1	0	15.9	6.65

Shanto's 50 helps B'desh extend lead

Dhaka: Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto hit an unbeaten half-century as Bangladesh extended their lead by 179 runs on the rainy fourth day of the first Test against Pakistan on Monday. The hosts were 152-3 in their second innings, with Shanto on 58 not out alongside Mushfiqur Rahim on 16, when stumps were drawn for the day

FIRST TEST

Bangladesh lost their openers early after resuming on their overnight score 7-0, with Mahmudul Hasan Joy trapped leg before off Mohammad Abbas for five. Shadman Islam was then caught at gully by Saud Shakeel off Hasan Ali for 10. AFP

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 413 & (o/n: 7/0) 152/3 in 50.3 overs (Mominul Haque 56, Najmul Shanto 58 n.o) **vs Pakistan (I innings): 386 all out.**

'They want me to take *sanyaas*, this is conspiracy'

▶ Continued From Page 1

Vinesh had announced the national open ranking series event as the launchpad of her comeback in the journey to the Los Angeles Olympics.

Vinesh also dismissed accusations that her comeback bid is "politically motivated". "You are calling me 'tukde tukde gang', then who are you (referring to Singh and WFI)?" I have given 20 years to Indian wrestling. I have given my heart and soul to this sport. Athletes are under mental pressure. I am not feeling safe in this environment. They want me to retire so their conspiracy succeeds," she claimed.

But the WFI remained unmoved. "On five points, the WFI has given notice to her. Till the time she responds to the allegations, we won't let her participate. For this tournament, she remains suspended," WFI president Sanjay Singh said.

Inside the registration hall, Vinesh attempted to complete physical verification for her weight category but was denied permission to proceed. Later, she also claimed she was prevented from training at the indoor wrestling hall inside the complex. The federation officials, however, said they were unaware of any such denial.

The federation maintained that disciplinary proceedings against her were still pending and that she remained suspended from domestic competition until June 26, 2026. Yet Vinesh insisted she had fulfilled all anti-doping and procedural requirements mandated by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and United World Wrestling (UWW).

"I received the notice on Saturday and did not have enough time to respond properly because I was preparing for the competition and cutting weight. They gave me 14 days to submit a detailed reply, which I'll surely give. But my request was not to stop me from competing during that period."

The confrontation escalated when Vinesh released on social media a confidential July 3, 2025 communication from the International Testing Agency (ITA), which handles anti-doping processes for UWW. The mail, sent by testing officer Estelle Daloz, clearly stated that she was eligible to return to competition from Jan 1, 2026.

The wrestler revealed she had already undergone two anti-doping tests since announcing her comeback on Dec 18, 2025 and had cleared both.

The federation later released a statement stating that Vinesh was provided full security from the moment she arrived at the tournament venue. "As witnessed by everyone present, she met the officials and was informed about her ineligibility to participate, as per the rules and procedures in place. She freely interacted with the media and was not stopped or interrupted anywhere. Following this, she left the venue peacefully. From her arrival in Gonda to her departure from the venue, complete security and support were extended to her at every step," the statement read.

PTI adds, looking for a place to train ahead of the women's weigh-in scheduled between 5pm and 7pm on Monday, Vinesh searched for a warm-up area inside the venue only to find it locked.

She then moved to the SAI Khelo India Centre hoping to find mats to train on, but there were none available there either. "We are trying in every way but they are not letting me wrestle. I came here putting my life and mind at stake," she said, before leaving the venue.

Despite the setback, Vinesh asserted that she would continue fighting. "I am working hard honestly and truthfully. God knows I am clean. If I am right, he will give me strength. We will fight for our rights," she said. It is learnt that Vinesh, Rathee and her team left for Delhi after taking a late evening flight from Lucknow.

MINISTRY CRACKS DOWN ON BFI

Gonda: The Sports Ministry on Monday issued a show cause notice to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), questioning its controversial and opaque assessment test process for selecting Indian boxing teams for the upcoming CWG in Glasgow and Asian Games in Japan's Aichi-Nagoya. The ministry warned the federation to explain within seven days why action should not be initiated against it for "violations and deficiencies" in its selection procedures, reports **Sabi Hussain**.

GALLERY

DAVID, FLOWER PENALISED

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Tim David was on Monday fined 30 percent of his match fee for using an 'obscene' gesture during the IPL game against Mumbai Indians. The Australian also accumulated two demerit points for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Conduct for Players and Team officials. "Tim was found to have breached article 2.6 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which relates to 'using a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting'," an IPL media advisory stated. Head coach Andy Flower has been fined 15 per cent of his applicable match fee for breaching the IPL's code of conduct by getting involved in a dispute with the fourth umpire.

Atkinson fails concussion test: England fast bowler Gus Atkinson was substituted out of a County Championship match on Sunday and later failed a concussion test after being hit on the helmet twice while batting, raising concerns about his fitness ahead of next month's Test series against New Zealand. The seamer was struck twice on the head by international teammate Josh Tongue in Surrey's match against Nottinghamshire but initially continued batting after on-field assessments. The 28-year-old later called for further treatment before retiring hurt on 27.

Komal claims bronze: Komal Kohar opened hosts India's medal count, winning a bronze in the women's 48kg weight class at the Asian Weightlifting Championships in Gandhinagar on Monday. Competing in place of Tokyo silver medallist Mirabai Chanu, the 23-year-old rose to the occasion with a composed performance, finishing with a combined lift of 177kg -- 78kg in snatch and 99kg in clean and jerk.

Chotrani bows out: India's Veer Chotrani went down to Egyptian world No. 1 and defending champion Mostafa Asal in the men's second round of the World Squash Championships in Giza, Egypt. World No. 45 Chotrani lost 5-11, 2-11, 4-11, which ended the Indian challenge at the marquee competition.

SNAP SHOTS

BOWEN QUESTIONS VAR CONSISTENCY

West Ham United captain Jarrod Bowen questioned the consistency of VAR reviews after Callum Wilson's stoppage-time equaliser against Arsenal on Sunday was controversially ruled out. Wilson fired home in a goalmouth scramble following a corner but his effort was disallowed for a foul on Arsenal keeper David Raya after a lengthy VAR check. "When you look at the screen for five minutes you'll find something - a lot of grappling and a lot of holding," Bowen told the BBC. "I'm sure if you look long enough you'll find something. Do I think it's the right decision? No. Where's the consistency?"

India colts campaign ends: India bowed out of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia without a point, and without sco ring a goal, as Bibiano Fernandes' side lost against Uzbekistan 3-0 in their group D clash at the King Abdullah Sports City Hall Stadium on Sunday.

India bow out: India's creditable run in the AFC Women's U17 Asian Cup came to an end after a 0-3 defeat against hosts China in the quarterfinals in Suzhou on Monday. The defeat dashed the Young Tigresses' hopes of securing a historic qualification for the 2026 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup, though the campaign still marked the country's best-ever performance in the competition with a first appearance in the knockout stage.

Rune skips French Open: Former world number four Holger Rune has withdrawn from the Hamburg Open and the French Open as he continues to recover from a torn Achilles, the Dane said on Monday. The 23-year-old had surgery in October to repair his Achilles.

Sinner in last 16: Jannik Sinner breezed into the last 16 of the Italian Open on Monday after swatting aside Alexei Popyrin in straight sets 6-2, 6-0 and continuing his bid for a first title in Rome. The world number one easily won his 25th straight match, taking just over an hour to see off Australia's Popyrin and set up an Italian derby with Andrea Pellegrino in the next round.

Mendy undergoes surgery: Real Madrid defender Ferland Mendy underwent surgery for a recurring right thigh injury on Monday, AFP learned . The operation went well, the source said, with the player expected to return within 3-4 months.

Harjai starts favourite: Order of Merit leader Harjai Milkha Singh will start as the favourite when the IGU Andhra Pradesh Junior Boys Golf Championship gets underway in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday.

This newspaper is published by Manjeet Singh Dhamija from Bennett Coleman & Co.Ltd., Elsir Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru - 560025 (Phones: Office: EPABX- 080- 42200000, Editorial: 080- 46787878) on behalf of Bennett Coleman & Co.Ltd., edited by Neelam Raaj and printed by Sekar S at Bennett Coleman & Co.Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore- 560 099 (Ph: 080-22899999). Regd office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400 001. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.
REGD. NO. CPMG/KA/GPO-31/2003-05, RNI NO. 65466/93

CHAMPIONS, LIGA

Barca Make History By Clinching Title In Clasico But Domestic Dominance Not Enough. Ambition Should Be European Glory

Barcelona: As the dust settles on Barcelona's 29th title celebrations, the cava bottles are sent for recycling and the open-top bus heads back to the garage, work for next season will already be underway.

Hansi Flick's back-to-back La Liga triumphs have helped bring welcome calm to the club after just one league trophy in the previous, tumultuous five years. But domestic dominance is not enough. Winning the Champions League for the first time since 2015 is Barcelona's chief ambition.

Although impressive, this season's La Liga conquest is a slight downgrade on what Flick's team achieved last season, claiming a domestic treble and reaching the Champions League semifinals. With Lamine Yamal and Pedri Gonzalez shining, Barca believed this would be the year they won their sixth European Cup. However, the Catalans came up short against Atletico, eliminated 3-2 in aggregate in the quarterfinals.

Flick confirmed last week that winning the Champions League is his main objective. "The one thing I want in life is for us to win the Champions League," said the German. "We have a good team for the next years, but we must make the right transfer decisions - they have to be perfect." Improving Barcelona's squad is the first, but not the only, step.

The problem, as Flick hinted, is that their financial position does not allow them to make mistakes. This season, Barca's lack of depth hurt them. Stretching the squad to its limit, resulted in frequent injury problems.

Barcelona's European exits have implied a certain naivety. They finished both legs against Atletico with 10 men, part of a pattern of vulnerability, indiscipline, and Barca would argue, bad luck. The coach also said after last season's 7-6 aggregate semis defeat by Inter that he would focus on improving Barca's defence. They failed to keep a single clean sheet in CL this season.

Flick is unlikely to abandon his attacking approach, so Barca hope that with the right additions and another year of growth for their youngsters, they can finally end their wait for European glory. AFP

Barcelona players celebrate the club's 29th title,after beating Real Madrid 2-0

"I will never forget this day. It was a tough day for me. It starts with (news that) my father passed away, but my team is fantastic. Like a family, and they gave everything today"
— Hansi Flick, BARCELONA MANAGER

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Barcelona	35	30	1	4	91
Real Madrid	35	24	5	6	77

24.6 Average of the Barcelona squad this season. Last season's title-winning team had an average age of 24.1

16 Yamal leads Barcelona in scoring (jointly with Ferran Torres on 16 goals) and a competition-leading 11 assists in La Liga, despite missing some games with injury.

91 Barca scored 91 goals with an average of 2.6 per game. They conceded 31 goals.

106 With the win, Barcelona tie the all-time head-to-head record with Real Madrid at 106 wins each.

Kawahashi shock for Hernandez

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Indian players endured a disappointing start at the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger tournament at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium, here on Monday, with three home contenders crashing out in the opening round in straight sets.

India's Sidharth Rawat, ranked 537 in the ATP standings, went down 4-6, 6-7(3) to seventh seed Maximus Jones of Thailand in a contest lasting one hour and 50 minutes.

ITF CHALLENGER

Main draw wildcard Maan Kesharwani put up a spirited fight against Dominik Palan before losing 7-6(10), 6-4 in a marathon two-hour and 15-minute encounter. Fellow wildcard Dev Javia also bowed out after a 1-6, 6-7(5) defeat to Serbia's Ognjen Milic in one hour and 17 minutes.

In another notable first-round result, Japan's Yuta Kawahashi stunned eighth-seeded Mexican Alex Hernandez 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Ranked 637, Kawahashi upset the player placed 193 spots above him in the ATP rankings to advance to the second round.

KARKI IN THE MAIN DRAW

Ronit Karki of the US scored a 6-2, 6-1 win over India's Parth Aggarwal in the second round of qualifying to move into the main draw. The 2025 Wimbledon boys singles runners-up will meet India's Manish Sureshkumar on Tuesday.

Results: Singles (Round of 32): Dominik Palan (Cze) bt Maan Kesharwani (Ind) 7-6 (10), 6-4; 7-Maximus Jones (Tha) bt Sidharth Rawat (Ind) 6-4, 7-6(3); 5-Ognjen Milic (Srb) bt Dev Javia (Ind) 6-1, 7-6 (5); Yuta Kawahashi (Jpn) bt 8-Alex Hernandez (Mex) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

FINE FORM: Yuta Kawahashi in action on Monday

Rohith, Bhavish star for SUCC (1)

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Rohith Reddy's quick-fire century (123; 103b) and a five-wicket haul by Bhavish K (5/13) laid the foundation for Swastic Union Cricket Club's (1) runaway 189-run victory against Caravan Cricketers in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament here recently. Opting to bat first, Swastic Union put together a competitive total of 297 and then bowled out Caravan for 108 in 31.1 overs for a 189-run victory.

Swastic were off to a shaky start and were precariously placed at 90/4 after 15 overs. Rohit held up one end. Rohith was in prime form, with his 103-run innings highlighted by 14 hits to the fence and three maximums. He also stitched together an excellent 94-run partnership with Arjun RA for the sixth wicket, which strengthened the team's innings.

In reply, Caravan Cricketers struggled to build momentum during the chase. Rajveer Chowdhary's 35 was the highest score, while three batters were dismissed for a duck. The team failed to stitch together significant partnerships as wickets kept falling regularly. Bhavish K accelerated this collapse with his impressive bowling, claiming five wickets and bowling two maiden overs. Caravan Cricketers were eventually bowled out for 108 in the 32nd over.

Brief scores: Swastic Union CC (1): 297 all out in 50 overs (Rohith Reddy 123 (103b; 14x4; 3x6), Arjun R A 27, Niyanta Kulkarni 46; Raunak Biswas 2-57, Vivaan Bhusad 4-37, Gabriel Mohanty 2-24) **bt Caravan Cricketers: 108 all out in 31.1 overs** (Rajveer Chowdhary 35; Neev Bhattacharjee 2-13, Bhavish K 5-13, Saachin Suresh Araganji 2-16).

Yankees CC: 275/8 in 50 overs (Nachiket Athale 95, Miraan Mahajan 29, Aradhya Sheety 51, Advik Srinivas 37; Surya Sendhil 2-47) **lost to National Cricketers: 276/8 in 49.3 overs** (Amogh Athreyasa 52, Maanvik S 54, Gaurav Raj 105 (100b; 16x4); Advik Srinivas 2-46, Nadavala Srinivas Charvik 3-65).

Jayanagar Cricketers: 153 all out in 28.2 overs (Hasnain Ali 56, Sujoy Das 28; Dhruvdinesh TV 3-24, Ruhaan Shaikh 4-19) **lost to Chintamani Sports Association: 154/8 in 22.2 overs** (Aashwij 38, Ruhaan Shaikh 25; Suleman Safi 2-41).

City Gymkhana: 261/7 in 50 overs (Pushkar S 26, Arnav Manchale 88, Siddharth HS 29, Vedant Shaurya 72 n.o; Ayush Barath 2-43, Vihan HB 2-47) **bt YMCA CC (3): 164 all out in 34.3 overs** (Karthick Veeran 52, D Mohith 37; Tarun M 2-27, Tejas Bhat 3-39, Arnav Manchale 2-14).

Jayanagar United Cricketers: 312/7 in 50 overs (Shoubhit Pani 31, Ayan Mukherjee 58, Sudarshan Thapa 42, Yadalla Krishna 55, Samarth Rayabagi 43; Sai Teja 2-45) **bt Jupiter Cricketers Association: 71 all out in 27.1 overs** (Adhyay 3-19, Soumith Kongara 5-13).

Vivekanagar Cricketers: 212 all out in 44.3 overs (Bhavith Reddy 63, Sachit Galatagi 38; Anirudh Katige 2-35, Chiranthgowda 3-40, CVD Karthik 5-30) **bt Malleswaram Gymkhana: 190 all out in 42.5 overs** (Koman Prasad 40, Aryamohan K 56, Anirudh Katige 30 n.o; Akarsh Appinakatte 2-35, Jagan T P 6-32).

Dhinidhi, Dharshan sizzle

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Olympian Dhinidhi Desinghu began her campaign in the senior state swimming championship with a record-breaking performance here on Monday.

At the Basavangudi Aquatic Centre, the 16-year-old from Dolphin Aquatics was a cut above the rest in the 200 metres freestyle event, touching the pad in a record time of 2:04.20.

STATE SWIMMING

The teenager sliced almost two seconds off the previous mark set last year, which stood at 2:04.20 in her name.

Meanwhile, in the men's 400m freestyle event, twins Dharshan S and Dhakshan S challenged each other, while both broke Aneesh Gowda's previous record of 3:59.56. Darshan (3.59.07) edged out Dhakshan (3.59.26) for the gold at their home pool.

TOI
ON FIRE: Dhinidhi Desinghu

Results: Men: 400M Freestyle: 1. Dharshan S (BAC; 3:59.07; NMR), 2. Dhakshan S (BAC; 3:59.26), 3. Aneesh S Gowda (BAC; 4:00.98); **200M IM: 1.** Shoan Ganguly (BAC; 2:08.55), 2. Chinthan Shetty (Lakshyan AS) 2:10.70, 3. Surya Jhoyappa (BAC; 2:14.00; **100M Freestyle**: 1. Aneesh Gowda (BAC; 51.40), 2. Akash Mani (BAC; 51.65), 3. Chinthan Shetty (Lakshyan AS) 52.44. **100M Backstroke:** 1 Akash Mani (BAC; 58.13), 2. Samarth Gowda (BAC; 59.50), 3. Vedanta VM (BAC; 59.96); **50M Backstroke:** 1. Srihari Nataraj (Dolphin) 25.86, 2. Akash Mani (BAC; 26.42), 3. Idhant Chaturvedi (BAC; 27.93); **100M Breaststroke: 1** Vidith Shankar (Dolphin) 1:04.81, 2. Manikanta L (BAC; 1:05.04), 3. Surya Jhoyappa (BAC; 1:05.14); 50M Freestyle: 1. Prithvi M (BAC; 23.97), 2. Harikarthik Velu (Golden Fins; 24.65), 3. Navaneeth Gowda (Dolphin; 24.69); **4x200M FS: 1.** BAC A (Akash Mani, Monish PV, Shivank Vishwanath, Dhakshan S; 8:01.63), 2 BAC B (8:02.89), 3. Dolphin (8:06.09); **Women: 200M Butterfly** 1. Suhasini Ghosh (KSA; 2:29.60), 2. S Lakshya (BAC; 2:31.60), 3. Anjali Hoskere (BAC; 2:34.57); **1500M Freestyle:** 1. Sri Charani Tumu (JIRS; 18:06.18), 2. Aditi Mulay (BAC; 18:16.05) 3. Shirin (BAC; 18:23.08); **50M Breaststroke**: 1 S Lakshya (BAC; 33.74), 2. Lineysha AK (Dolphin; 34.52), 3. Manavi Varma (Dolphin; 34.74). **4x100M FS:** 1 Dolphin A (Tanishi Gupta, Nina Venkatesh, Rujula S, Dhinidhi Desinghu 3:58.72), 2. BAC A (4:07.55), 3. Dolphin B (4:09.37); **50M Backstroke:** 1. Suvana C Baskar (Dolphin; 30.19), 2. Vihitha Nayana (BAC; 30.75), 3. Naisha (BAC; 31.56); 200M Freestyle: 1. Dhinidhi Desinghu (Dolphin; 2:04.20 NMR), 2. Sri Charani Tumu (JIRS) 2:10.28, 3. Suhasini Ghosh (KSA) 2:10.89; **200M IM:** 1 Tanishi Gupta (Dolphin; 2:22.76), 2. Dhinidhi Desinghu (Dolphin; 2:28.09), 3 Thanya S (JIRS; 2:29.06).

TATA

TATA.ev — undisputed leader. Unmistakably India's No.1□ EV.

"3 Lakh+ Proud Owners

Drive home the certain choice and own the .ev that powers India forward. Book now.

- Widest .ev range for every need
- Easy charging at home or 30k+ Public Chargers~
- Save big and drive at just ₹1/km#
- Peace of mind with Lifetime* HV Battery Pack Warranty
- 5-star• Safety you can trust

Harrier.ev — Range upto 627 km* — Price starts at ₹21.49L* — Incredible benefits ₹2 25 000^ — Low EMI starting ₹21 555▲

Curvv.ev — Range upto 502 km* — SeriesX starts at ₹16.99L* — Low EMI starting ₹14 555▲

Nexon.ev — Range upto 489 km* — Price starts at ₹12.49L* — Incredible benefits ₹1 45 000^ — Low EMI starting ₹10 999▲

Tiago.ev — Range upto 293 km* — Price starts at ₹7.99L* — Incredible benefits ₹2 33 000^ — Low EMI starting ₹5 999▲

India's No.1 Charging Ecosystem
- 30,000+ Public chargers~
- 2500+ Verified charging points
- 200+ TATA.ev MegaChargers
- 24×7 Charge Buddy - Call 1800 209 8989

12 billion+ km## driven in India

Available in GeM, CSD and KPKB

Scan to calculate your .ev savings

Scan to find your nearest dealership

BHARAT NCAP•

To know everything about EVs
call +91 92402 92401
visit ev.tatamotors.com

book TATA.ev

TATA ev

KEY MOTORS: JP Nagar Kanakapura Road: 7506023980, Mysore Road: 9167395034, Kanakapura City: 8879145649, BG Road: 9167395164, Nelamangala: 9167881890, Sunkadakatte Magadi Road: 9167882027; KHT MOTORS: Whitefield: 7506023988; Domlur: 7506024006, Kolar: 9731149668; KROPEX AUTO: Hosur Road: 7506024016, Koramangala: 9167395364, Sarjapur road: 8291202713, Mahadevapura: 8291052641; PRERANA MOTORS: Lalbagh Road: 7506024020; BTM Layout: 7506024118; Rajajinagar: 7506024039; Yelahanka: 9619489334; ADISHAKTI CARS: Hebbal: 7506023837; Dasarahalli: 9167982568; Kalyana Nagar: 9167163087; BELLAD ENTERPRISES PVT LTD: Bommsandra: 8238883535, 9035354160; Sarajpura: 8879932503; CAUVERY MOTORS: Avalahalli: 8879156068; Mekhri Circle: 8422849049; Devanahalli: 8879078454; Singanayakanahalli: 8879263417; SREE AUTO: Tumkur: 7506024318,Tiptur: 9619050469, Chitradurga: 9619033465, Kunigal: 8879046819, Chikkaballapur: 9167082428, Chintamani: 8291927028; MANICKBAG AUTOMOBILES(Kalburgi): Kalburgi: 8879169617, Bidar: 9619363038, Shahpur: 9167027446; BIJJARGI MOTORS: Bijapur: 7506024157, Bagalkot: 9619014358, Jamkhandi: 9619040964, Ilkal: 9619040778; MANICKBAG AUTOMOBILES (Hubli): Hubli: 7506024185, Dharwad: 8879235989; Haveri: 9619040361, Ankola: 9619013348, Sirsi: 9619045978; Gadag: 9619037048; Murdeshwara: 8291028637; Ranebennur: 8291190339; MANICKBAG AUTOMOBILES (BELAGAVI): Belgaum: 7506023549, Athani: 8879235712; Gokak: 9619037857, Chikkodi: 9619030510; BELLAD ENTERPRISES: Bellary: 7506023831; Hospet: 9619040684, Koppal: 9167027250; Raichur: 9619045071; Gangawati: 8879516254; Sindhnur: 8310110981

Images and illustrations are indicative and for information purpose only. All feature / specifications mentioned may vary from model to model and may not be available across all personas / variants. Features and specifications are subject to change without prior information. Please consult an authorized TATA Motors dealer for latest information on features / specifications before deciding to place an order. Colours may not match actual colours due to printing limitations. •As per Bharat NCAP 2024 score, applicable to Curvv.ev and Nexon.ev. As per Bharat NCAP 2025 score, applicable to Harrier.ev. ~As per internal data provided by charge point operators. ##Based on internal calculations. □Claim based on electric passenger vehicle sales as per Vahan data for the specified period. Details available at authorised dealerships. ▲Finance at the sole discretion of Financier The EMI figures shown above are based on specific loan amount and 120 month repayment period. Actual EMI amounts may vary based on loan amount and total on road price T&C Apply. *The term 'Lifetime' refers to the period of fifteen years for the first owner from the first date of registration of the vehicle at the local regional transport office, in accordance with the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Applicable to all products except Tiago.ev .T&C apply. •ARAI Certified, Urban + Extra Urban (MIDC Part 1 + Part 2), actual performance figures may vary depending on various conditions including driving pattern, etc. **Cumulative sales milestone achieved across the TATA.ev portfolio since inception. Sales figures are indicative and rounded off. #₹1/km based on ARAI-certified efficiency & standard electricity tariff. Actual costs may vary with local rates & driving conditions. ^All India ex-showroom price. •Offers vary by manufacturing year and personas. Discounts applicable on MY2025 vehicles may differ from those on MY2026 vehicles. Please check with authorised dealers for variant-wise and stock-wise details. Terms & conditions apply.

BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.112 BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 24 | PRICE ₹5

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

OpenAI will acquire consulting firm Tomoro to help staff up a new entity, called OpenAI Deployment Company, to drive adoption of its AI software across more businesses

Snapdragon

Snapdragon X SERIES

Unplugged and Unstoppable

Up to **90% faster** than others when unplugged[1]

HP OmniBook 3 OLED

MRP	₹1,08,510*
Display Price	₹79,990**
Retailer Offer	₹61,990**
Exchange Value	₹8,850**
Exchange Bonus	-
Cashback up to	₹12,250**
Maximum Savings up to	₹67,620**
NCEMI and Duration	Up to 9 months**

Effective Price ₹49,740*

amazon.in

ASUS Zenbook A14

MRP	₹1,22,990*
Display Price	₹86,990**
Retailer Offer	₹3,500**
Exchange Value	-
Exchange Bonus	-
Cashback up to	-
Maximum Savings up to	₹39,500**
NCEMI and Duration	Up to 9 months**

Effective Price ₹83,490*

ASUS EXCLUSIVE STORE

ASUS Vivobook 16

MRP	₹84,990*
Display Price	₹58,990**
Retailer Offer	₹1,180**
Exchange Value	₹5,000**
Exchange Bonus	₹8,849**
Cashback up to	-
Maximum Savings up to	₹39,849**
NCEMI and Duration	₹4,916 / month** (Up to 12 months)

Effective Price ₹45,142*

croma

Samsung Galaxy Book4 Edge

MRP	₹92,390*
Display Price	₹67,990**
Retailer Offer	₹1,670**
Exchange Value	₹25,000**
Exchange Bonus	₹2,000**
Cashback up to	₹17,000**
Maximum Savings up to	₹45,670**
NCEMI and Duration	₹4,090 / month** (Up to 12 months)

Effective Price ₹49,320*

Flipkart

Lenovo IdeaPad Slim 3

MRP	₹82,890*
Display Price	₹74,999**
Retailer Offer	₹11,499.9**
Exchange Value	₹10,000**
Exchange Bonus	₹1,000**
Cashback up to	₹4,762**
Maximum Savings up to	₹27,262**
NCEMI and Duration	₹4,374 / month** (Up to 12 months)

Effective Price ₹47,737*

Reliancedigital

Explore AI PCs with multi-day battery life powered by Snapdragon

acer ASUS hp Lenovo Microsoft Surface SAMSUNG

Available on

amazon.in ASUS EXCLUSIVE STORE croma Flipkart Reliancedigital vijay sales www.vijaysales.com

[1] CPU Performance is based on Geekbench v6.2 Single-Core on Windows 11 OS run in October 2024. Snapdragon X Elite (X1E-80-100) was tested using a Dell XPS 13 (9345) on "Balanced" Power Mode in Windows and "Optimized" in Dell Power Manager. Intel Core Ultra 7 256V was tested using a Dell XPS 13 (9350) on "Balanced" Power Mode in Windows and "Standard mode" in Windows and "Optimized" in Dell Power Manager. The AMD Ryzen AI 9 HX 370 was tested using an ASUS VivoBook S14 (M5406WA) on "Balanced" Power Mode in Windows and "Standard mode" in MyASUS. Power and performance comparison reflect results based on measurements and hardware instrumentation of given devices. | *The prices and effective values shown are for representation purposes only. Actual prices may differ at the time of purchase depending on availability, exchange valuation, bank eligibility, or other applicable terms and conditions determined by the seller. | Product images and visuals are for illustration purposes only and may differ from the actual products offered by third-party brands or retailers. | All trademarks, logos, and brand names are the property of their respective owners. | Snapdragon and Qualcomm branded products are products of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries. | T&C apply.

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

SANTA CLAUS HAS THE RIGHT IDEA - VISIT PEOPLE ONLY ONCE A YEAR — VICTOR BORGE

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH GETS INTO HEATED VERBAL ALTERCATION WITH A FELLOW CYCLIST AFTER ALLEGEDLY RUNNING A RED LIGHT

DUA LIPA FILES $15M LAWSUIT AGAINST SAMSUNG, ALLEGING IT USED HER PIX ON PACKAGING FOR ITS TVs WITHOUT PERMISSION

Trump rejects Iran's proposal, says ceasefire 'on life support'

Tehran Had Sought End To Blockade, Compensation, Sovereignty Over Hormuz

Washington/Dubai: President Donald Trump said on Monday that a ceasefire with Iran was "on life support" after he rejected Tehran's response to a US peace proposal, fuelling concerns of a resumption of hostilities in the 10-week-old conflict that has killed thousands and halted vital energy flows.

Days after Washington floated a proposal aimed at reopening negotiations, Iran on Sunday released a response focused on ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon, where US ally Israel is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah militants. The response had been swiftly rejected by Trump. "I don't like it — TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE," Trump wrote on Truth Social, without giving further detail.

Asked where the ceasefire stands, Trump told reporters on Monday. "I would call it the weakest right now, after reading that piece of garbage they sent us. I didn't even finish reading it," he said.

In its response, Tehran also demanded compensation for war damage, emphasised its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, and called on the US to end its naval blockade, guarantee no further attacks, lift sanctions and remove a ban on Iranian oil sales. The US had proposed an end to fighting before starting talks on more contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear programme.

Tehran defended its stance on Monday. "Our demand is legitimate: demanding an end to the war, lifting the (US) blockade and piracy, and releasing Iranian assets that have been unjustly frozen in banks due to US pressure," foreign ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said. "Safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and establishing security in the region and Lebanon were other demands of Iran, which are considered a generous and responsible offer."

AP

Curious visitors check a video game mocking the war on Iran that appeared at the National Mall in Washington DC on Monday

Trickle of traffic via Hormuz

Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is at a trickle compared with before the war. Shipping data on Kpler and LSEG showed that three tankers laden with crude exited the waterway last week, with trackers switched off to avoid Iranian attacks. A second Qatari LNG tanker was attempting to transit the strait, the data showed, days after the first such cargo crossed under an arrangement involving Iran and Pakistan. Sporadic flare-ups around the strait in recent days have tested a ceasefire that has paused all-out warfare since it took effect in early April.

Trump to talk Iran with Xi

The next diplomatic or military steps remain unclear. Trump is expected to arrive in Beijing on Wednesday, where Iran is set to be among the topics discussed with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump has been leaning on China to use its influence to push Tehran toward a deal with Washington. Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Baghaei suggested China could instead use the visit to push back against US objectives in the Gulf. "Our Chinese friends know very well how to use these opportunities to warn about the consequences of the US' illegal and bullying actions on regional peace and security," he said. AGENCIES

Trump: Will move to suspend gasoline tax

President Trump said Monday he will move to suspend the federal tax on gasoline to help Americans shoulder surging fuel prices caused by the Iran war. The president cannot suspend the federal tax on his own. Congress would have to approve the move. Lawmakers from both parties have pushed for a gas-tax suspension, saying it would provide much-needed relief for families and businesses that rely on their cars and trucks to get to work and school and run everyday errands. Asked by reporters at the White House how long the tax should be suspended, Trump said, "Until it's appropriate." AP

Deployed mini subs to control Strait: Iran

Iran says it's deployed small submarines to act as an "invisible guardian" of the Strait of Hormuz amid a series of rejected peace deals between Tehran and the US. The Islamic Republic has at least 16 of the Ghadir-class midget submarines, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Each has a crew of fewer than 10 people and can carry either two torpedoes or two Chinese-designed C-704 anti-ship cruise missiles. But they are noisier than most modern submarines. Their crews also have limited experience, and the vessels are known to have maintenance issues, a person in the know said. BLOOMBERG

Ukraine, Russia fight on despite a brief ceasefire mediated by US

Russia and Ukraine on Monday reported fighting along their long front line despite a US-mediated ceasefire, and each accused the other of launching drone and artillery strikes.

Ukraine and Russia agreed on Friday to a ceasefire from May 9 to May 11 as part of a US-led push for peace under President Donald Trump after more than four years of war following Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. Trump said on Friday he hoped the ceasefire would be extended, but it was already showing signs of strain on Sunday, when each side accused the other of violating it.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Sunday Moscow had refrained from large-scale attacks but had continued assaults along parts of the 1,200-km front line where Russian forces are advancing.

He said Ukrainian troops were responding and defending their positions. Russian state news agencies reported Russia's defence ministry had recorded 23,802 ceasefire violations by Ukraine since the start of the ceasefire. REUTERS

Man accused of bid to kill Trump pleads not guilty

Washington: The man accused of attempting to assassinate US President Donald Trump at a White House reporters' gala last month pleaded not guilty to all charges on Monday.

Cole Allen, 31, of California, did not speak in court as his attorney Tezira Abe entered the plea on his behalf. The charges include attempted assassination of the president, assault on a federal officer and firearms offences.

Prosecutors allege Allen fired a shotgun at a US Secret Service agent and stormed a security checkpoint in a foiled attack on Trump and other members of his administration at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Allen allegedly travelled to Washington by train, carrying a shotgun, pistol and knives, and booked a room in the Washington Hilton where the April 25 dinner took place. Allen's attorneys are seeking to have acting attorney general Todd Blanche and US attorney Jeanine Pirro disqualified from the case because they were present at the dinner and may have been among his targets. REUTERS

Two more passengers evacuated from cruise ship test hantavirus+

The Hague: Nations around the world on Monday repatriated passengers from a cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak and quarantined or isolated them, including a French woman and an American who tested positive.

Passengers from the ship began flying home aboard military and govt planes Sunday after the MV Hondius anchored in the Canary Islands. Personnel in full-body protective gear and breathing masks escorted the travellers from ship to shore in Tenerife, an effort that continued Monday.

Three cruise ship passengers have died, and there are at least six confirmed hantavirus cases, according to the WHO. The lab results of the American who tested positive were inconclusive, WHO spokesperson Sarah Tyler said Monday.

Health authorities say the risk to the broader public is low from the first-ever hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship. While there is no cure or vaccine for hantavirus, the WHO says early detection and treatment improves survival rates. The ship's captain, Jan Dobrogowski, issued a video message Monday praising passengers and crew for their perseverance and calling for respect for their privacy.

Reuters

The cruise ship MV Hondius, affected by a hantavirus outbreak, receives a delivery at the port of Granadilla de Abona in Tenerife

The French woman tested positive for hantavirus and her health worsened in the hospital overnight, French health minister Stephanie Rist said Monday. The woman was among five French passengers repatriated on Sunday. She developed symptoms on the flight to Paris, Rist told public broadcaster France-Inter.

One of 18 passengers evacuated from the ship and flown to Nebraska also tested positive for the hantavirus but is not showing any symptoms, and another had mild symptoms, US health officials said late Sunday. After landing in Nebraska early Monday, the American passengers were being taken to the University of Nebraska Medical Center, which has a federally funded quarantine facility. Once there, they were being assessed to determine whether they have been in close contact with any symptomatic people and their risk levels for spreading the virus.

The planes arriving in Tenerife were to fly out passengers from more than 20 countries in an evacuation effort that was due to wrap up on Monday. On Monday, 54 passengers and crew remained on the ship, of which 22 were expected to disembark, while the remaining 32 will remain on the ship as it returns to the Netherlands. AP

Google says criminal hackers used AI to find software flaw

Security researchers at Alphabet Inc's Google said they believe a cybercrime group used artificial intelligence to create a hacking tool that can bypass defences in a widely used tool to administer computer systems.

The scheme, which was foiled when Google alerted the tool developer, would mark the first time that Google's Threat Intelligence Group caught a hacker using an AI-generated "zero-day" in such a way, according to a report published Monday. Zero-day vulnerabilities are flaws unknown to the developer, leaving defenders no time to patch before they can be exploited. Google said it has "high confidence" that AI was used to help discover and weaponise the exploit.

The company declined to name the cybercrime group, the impacted software or the large language model that was used in the attempted attack.

Reuters

Google didn't say when the exploit was discovered

However, a spokesperson said researchers don't believe the exploit was created using Anthropic PBC's Mythos or Google's own model, Gemini.

The company also wouldn't say when the exploit was discovered other than it was "recent". Anthropic said in April it wouldn't widely release its new model, Mythos, as the way it used AI to exploit software flaws posed a national security risk. Since then, White House has moved to address potential malicious use of large language models, and officials have held emergency meetings with technology and industry leaders.

Google researchers said their findings suggest such threats are already a reality.

The hacking group used an AI model to find a previously unknown flaw in the tool. That flaw could be used to bypass multi-factor authentication, a security protection often added in addition to a password, to gain access to the internal networks of organisations using the software.

Google alerted the tool's developer, who fixed the issue before hackers could deploy it against users, the report said.

Businesses use web-based system administration tools to configure and manage servers, websites and applications remotely. This includes managing security settings , employee accounts and permissions the accounts have to access systems and data. BLOOMBERG

Musk, Cook to join Trump for Xi summit: WH

Washington/Beijing/New York: Elon Musk, Apple's Tim Cook, GE Aerospace's Larry Culp and Boeing's Kelly Ortberg will join US President Donald Trump on his visit to China this week, a White House official said.

Others taking part include Meta's Dina Powell McCormick, Blackrock's Larry Fink, Blackstone's Stephen Schwarzman, Cisco's Chuck Robbins, Micron's Sanjay Mehrota, Mastercard's Michael Miebach, Qualcomm's Christiano Amon and Visa's Ryan McInerney, the official said.

Ortberg said in April that Boeing was counting on the Trump administration to help unlock a long-awaited major order from China.

China and the US plane maker have been in prolonged talks for a deal that could include 500 737 MAX jets, plus dozens of wide-body jets powered by GE engines. It would be the country's first major Boeing order since 2017, and any announcement of the order would be viewed as a major win for the summit. It could also represent the single-largest airplane order in history.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is not going to Beijing with Trump, a person familiar with the matter said. Huang was not invited, the source said, with White House focusing more on agriculture and commercial aviation matters. Trump shares strong ties with Huang and has agreed to allow the company's H200 AI chips to be exported to China.

But they have not yet been sold, commerce secretary Howard Lutnick said on April 22, citing difficulties with Chinese companies getting permission to buy them from the Chinese govt. REUTERS

Trump: Will talk arms sales to Taiwan with Xi

US President Donald Trump said on Monday he would discuss the topic of arms sales to Taiwan with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Beijing this week.

"I'm going to have that discussion with President Xi," Trump told reporters at the White House when asked about Washington's longstanding support for Taiwan's defence. "President Xi would like us not to, and I'll have that discussion. That's one of the many things I'll be talking about." REUTERS

FLYERS SLIDE TO SAFETY AFTER JET CATCHES FIRE IN KATHMANDU

AP

A Turkish Airlines jet caught fire while landing at Nepal's main airport on Monday, prompting the crew to deploy slides to evacuate all passengers safely, officials said. The airline said in a statement that smoke was observed from the landing gear while taxiing and passengers were evacuated as a precaution via slides. Emergency crews at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu extinguished the fire. The airport was shut down on Monday morning but reopened nearly two hours later, after the plane was removed to a safer area at the airport. Flights were operating on schedule later on Monday. There were 277 passengers and 11 crew members on board the Airbus A330 from Istanbul. AP

Pak protests to Af over attack that killed 15 cops

Islamabad: Pakistan summoned a senior Afghan diplomat on Monday to lodge a formal protest over a suicide attack in the country's northwest, bordering Afghanistan, that killed 15 police officers.

Islamabad has blamed the late Saturday attack on the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP. Pakistani authorities have long accused the Taliban govt of sheltering TTP, a separate group but closely allied to the Afghan Taliban. Kabul denies the charge, saying it doesn't allow militants to use Afghan soil to attack other countries.

Pakistan's foreign ministry said a detailed investigation indicated the attack was "masterminded by terrorists residing in Afghanistan". Kabul was told that Islamabad "reserves the right to respond decisively against the perpetrators of this barbaric act", a statement said.

There was no immediate comment from Kabul. AP

Starmer vows to bring UK, EU closer amid exit calls

London: PM Keir Starmer pledged Monday to prove "doubters" in his own party and among the electorate as a whole wrong as he tries to fight off demands to step down after devastating local election results for his Labour Party.

Starmer argued that he will "face up to the big challenges" and restore hope to the country, in part by forging closer ties with European Union, six years after the UK's acrimonious departure from the bloc. "I know I have my doubters and I know I need to prove them wrong, and I will," Starmer said during a speech in London. He said Labour is in "a battle for the soul of our nation", and warned Britain will go down "a dark path" if Reform UK, the anti-immigration party headed by Nigel Farage, comes to office.

Labour lawmaker Catherine West, who had vowed to trigger a leadership challenge if the speech didn't mark a major turning point, said she would hold off for now, though she urged Starmer to resign by Sept. Dozens of other lawmakers also have urged him to announce a departure date.

Starmer hopes to regain momentum with Monday's speech and an ambitious set of legislative plans to be set out in a speech Wednesday by King Charles III at the State Opening of Parliament. He announced plans to nationalise what is left of the once-mighty British Steel, a move that could save some industrial jobs in an area where working-class voters have deserted Labour for Reform UK. Starmer also pledged to put Britain "at the heart of Europe" and forge closer ties with the 27-nation EU. Farage, who spearheaded the Brexit campaign, opposes any move to get closer to EU. AP

Philippine lawmakers vote to impeach VP

Manila: The House of Representatives in the Philippines voted overwhelmingly to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday over alleged unexplained wealth and threats against the president, as the rift between the camps of the country's top two officials escalated.

The House, which is dominated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's allies, voted 257-25 with nine abstentions. The two impeachment complaints against Duterte, which will now be elevated to the Senate for a trial, mark an initial setback to her plan to seek the presidency in 2028.

Shortly before the impeachment vote in the House, Senate president Vicente Sotto III, who had vowed to immediately put the VP to trial, was ousted by 13 of 24 senators, including supporters of the vice president and her father, former President Rodrigo Duterte. AP

DAILY PLANET

AP/File

THE FAB FOUR: (From L) John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney. The Beatles' first official London museum is set to open next year in the Mayfair building where the band recorded its final album and played its last gig, McCartney announced Monday. The attraction — 'The Beatles at 3 Savile Row' — will feature seven floors of never-seen-before archive material and a recreated basement studio where the Fab Four recorded their 1970 'Let It Be' album

Netflix sued by Texas for allegedly spying on children, addicting users

Netflix was sued on Monday by Texas attorney general Ken Paxton, who accused the streaming company of spying on children and other consumers by collecting their data without consent and designing its platform to be addictive. Texas said Netflix has for years falsely represented to consumers that it did not collect or share user data, when it actually tracked viewing habits and preferences and sold the data to companies, making billions of dollars a year. The complaint quoted former Netflix chief executive Reed Hastings as saying in 2020 "we don't collect anything", as he sought to distinguish Netflix from Amazon.com, Facebook and Google with regard to data collection. "When you watch Netflix, Netflix watches you," according to the complaint.

Iran seizes assets of ex-football captain

Iranian authorities on Monday announced the seizure of six properties allegedly linked to the former captain of the national football team, Ali Karimi, who now lives in exile and is critical of the Islamic republic. Karimi, who played for Bayern Munich and was dubbed the "Asian Maradona" for his wizardry on the pitch, has in social media posts backed protests against the authorities and voiced support for the monarchy ousted by the Islamic revolution. The judiciary described Karimi as "one of the traitors to the homeland".

'Wordle' game to be turned into TV show: New York Times' hit game "Wordle" is set to become a television show, the American newspaper said Monday. "Wordle" gives players six chances to guess a random five-letter word, using green, yellow and grey tiles to help them solve the puzzle. The game show version will air on NBC next year.

Portrait looted by Nazis found in home of Dutch SS leader's family: Art sleuth

The Hague: An artwork plundered by the Nazis from the world-famous Goudstikker collection has surfaced in the family of a notorious SS collaborator in the Netherlands, Dutch art detective Arthur Brand said Monday.

"Portrait of a Young Girl", by Dutch artist Toon Kelder, had likely been hanging for decades in the home of descendants of Hendrik Seyffardt, Brand said, describing it as "the most bizarre case of my entire career". The case has drawn parallels to a find that made global headlines in 2025, when an 18th-century Nazi-looted painting — also from the collection of late Jewish art dealer Jacques Goudstikker — featured in a property ad in Argentina.

In the Dutch case, Brand said he was approached by a man who had recently uncovered two horrifying secrets: he was a descendant of Seyffardt, and his family had displayed the looted art for years.

This family member, who wished to remain anonymous, told Brand he saw the painting hanging in the hallway of the granddaughter of Seyffardt, who was assassinated by Dutch resistance fighters in 1943.

Seyffardt, one of the highest-ranking Dutch collaborators with the Nazis, commanded a Waffen-SS unit of Dutch volunteers on the Eastern Front. NYT splashed news of his death on its front page in 1943, and a lavish Nazi state funeral was held for him in The Hague, complete with a wreath sent by Adolf Hitler. Brand said Seyffardt's granddaughter told the family member the painting was "Jewish looted art, stolen from Goudstikker. It is unsellable. Don't tell anyone."

AFP

The painting 'Portrait of a Young Girl' by Dutch artist Toon Kelder

But the family member wanted the story to go public and contacted Brand, who has made a name for himself cracking numerous high-profile cases of stolen art. This family member told De Telegraaf daily: "I feel ashamed. The painting should be returned to the heirs of Goudstikker."

The painting has a Goudstikker label on the back and the number 92 carved into the frame. Brand searched the archives of an auction in 1940 where a part of the looted Goudstikker collection went under the hammer and found item number 92: "Portrait of a Young Girl" by Toon Kelder.

Hermann Goering, a top Nazi official, plundered Goudstikker's entire collection when the art dealer fled to England in 1940. Brand surmises the Dutch collaborator Seyffardt acquired the painting at the 1940 auction, and it was then passed down throughout the generations.

Lawyers for the Goudstikker heirs confirmed to Brand that this painting was looted and have called for its return.

The family member who contacted Brand also wants the painting returned to the Goudstikker heirs, but police are powerless as the theft has passed the statute of limitations.

The Dutch Restitution Committee, which advises on looted Nazi art, is also hamstrung as it cannot compel private individuals to return artworks. "The family member sees public exposure as the only way to hopefully return the painting to the Goudstikker heirs, where it rightfully belongs," said Brand. AFP

BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 112 | BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

THE TIMES

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

RCB ALL-ROUNDER TIM DAVID HAS BEEN FINED 30% OF HIS MATCH FEE FOR USING AN 'OBSCENE' GESTURE DURING THE GAME AGAINST MUMBAI INDIANS 15

Suvendu names chief election officer as Bengal chief secy

Kaushik.Pradhan
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Suvendu Adhikari-led BJP govt in Bengal appointed state chief electoral officer Manoj Agarwal as chief secretary on Monday, triggering sharp political reactions from the opposition Trinamool Congress.

EC had picked Agarwal as Bengal CEO from a panel sent by then Trinamool govt headed by Mamata Banerjee. The 1990-batch, Bengal-cadre IAS officer supervised the special intensive revision of voter rolls and two-phase assembly polls in April.

Agarwal replaces Dushyant Nariala, who had been appointed by EC during the polls and has now been posted as principal resident commissioner in New Delhi. The decision was cleared at the BJP govt's first cabinet meeting.

The appointment came barely 48 hours after former special election observer Subrata Gupta was named adviser to CM Adhikari, adding to opposition attacks over appointments linked to election administration.

Agarwal is due to retire on July 31. Sources said the state could recommend at least a six-month extension, subject to the Centre's approval.

TMC accused the BJP govt of rewarding a poll official whom the party had repeatedly targeted during the campaign. BJP defended the move, saying Agarwal was the most senior IAS officer in the Bengal cadre and the appointment followed service rules.

▶Bengal precedent, P 9

ED ARRESTS FORMER MINISTER

- **PORTFOLIOS:** Panchayat and rural devpt for Dilip Ghosh, WCD for Agnimitra Paul, sports & youth devpt for Nisith Pramanik. CM Suvendu Adhikari will oversee non-allocated depts, including home (police), finance
- **Free rides for women** in state transport buses, **Ayushman Bharat rollout** from June 1, state cabinet decides
- **Loudspeaker sound cannot travel beyond religious site**, prayer congregations can't block roads, **except on special occasions**, orders state govt
- **ED arrests former Bengal fire minister** and Bidhannagar MLA Sujit Bose in municipality recruitment 'scam'
- Bengal govt **downgrades TMC functionary Abhishek Banerjee's Z+** category security cover to the standard protection available to MPs

▶3 HELD IN UP, BIHAR IN RATH MURDER CASE, P 9

SC to TMC: Can't use SIR appeals to challenge result

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday rejected a plea by TMC seeking permission for its defeated candidates to challenge the poll outcome in a seat if the number of pending appeals against deletion of voters is more than the victory margin, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra**.

For TMC, senior advocate and party MP Kalyan Banerjee reminded the bench that during earlier hearings, while refusing to stall IS, SC had indicated it would consider cases where the victory margin is much less than the number of pending appeals against deletion of names from a constituency.

▶ 'You are aware of...' P 10

Maha farmer sells onions for Re 1/kg

Prakash Galadhar, a 45-year-old farmer from Varudi in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar's Paithan taluk, Maharashtra sold 25 sacks of onions at APMC, only to realise a total value of Rs 1,262, amounting to Re 1 per kg. After deductions for transport, weighing, storage and other charges, he was left with nothing and was instead asked to pay Re 1. "I tried to sell onions cultivated on four acres on May 3. After getting very poor prices, I threw away the rest of the produce with a very heavy heart," Galadhar said. TNN

5 from Guj dead in HP accident

Six people, including five tourists from two Gujarat families, died and four were critically injured after their SUV plunged into a gorge in heavy rain in Bhattiyat area of Himachal's Chamba district early Monday. Two toddlers are battling for their lives. The vehicle was on its way from Manali to Dalhousie. Police said the driver lost control because of the road conditions. TNN

Man shoots son dead in public, ends life

An ex-serviceman who worked as a bank security guard chased his 38-year-old son down a crowded street in Ludhiana and shot him dead Sunday night. Then, he went home and died by suicide, police said. **P 8**

Clarification

India is not considering signing any MoU with the UAE for evacuation of Indian nationals from Fujairah, the MEA clarified, responding to a **TOI** report. The govt also denied that PM Narendra Modi will travel to Fujairah during his visit to the Gulf country this week. Official sources said there's no plan for any evacuation from UAE for now.

AIADMK faces major split as turf tussle tears through party

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: AIADMK lurched towards a full-blown rupture Monday after rival camps openly fought for control of its legislature wing in the 17th Tamil Nadu assembly. Competing factions fired off separate claims to the pro-tem speaker, each demanding recognition for its nominee as AIADMK legislature party leader — a bare-knuckle contest that laid bare the party's deepening civil war.

One camp, led by AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, sought recognition for him as legislature party chief and proposed former minister Thalavai Sundaram as assembly whip. Hours later, rebel heavyweights C Ve Shanmugam and SP Velumani raised stakes by submitting a rival letter pitching Velumani for legislature party leader and former minister C Vijayabaskar for whip. Freshly sworn-in MLAs watched fault lines widen inside a party already battered by electoral reverses and factional sniping.

AIADMK secured 47 seats in the 234-member assembly

▶Cong support for Vijay may soften tone, P 5

IANS

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay (left) meets former CM and DMK chief Stalin

Kerala CM pick: Cong calls in ex-KPCC chiefs

Congress leadership is considering convening a legislature party meeting as early as Tuesday or Wednesday to announce its choice from the three CM contenders. The party has reached out to former KPCC presidents, asking them to come to Delhi on Tuesday for a briefing on CM decision. Among the 4 states all but Kerala have announced their CM. **P 8**

'I won't give up': Vinesh reaches Brij Bhushan's turf, not allowed entry

Sabi Hussain & Fazal Khan | TNN

Gonda: A routine domestic ranking-series wrestling meet in UP's Gonda district turned into a politically and emotionally charged affair as three-time Olympian and two-time World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat, returning from retirement, stepped into the stronghold of former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Vinesh arrived with husband Somvir Rathee, security staff, former protest associates and supporters, but was denied entry into Nawabganj's Nandini Nagar Mahavidyalaya indoor hall, the venue for the three-day meet. "What do you expect me to do? Accept defeat? Take sanyaas and stay away so that their conspiracy against me succeeds? They're not allowing me. All I'm asking for is a fair chance to compete but they insist I first reply to their notice. It's all conspiracy," she said after meeting WFI officials.

PTI

Vinesh at the Gonda venue. The wrestler said she was cleared by ITA and should be allowed to compete. WFI said she must first reply to charges against her

▶This is conspiracy, P 15

Ex-Armyman kills 3 in 23 hrs in UP, shot dead

Rajeev.Dikshit
@timesofindia.com

Varanasi: Three killings in a span of 24 hours — two on running trains and one in a hospital — sent shockwaves through UP's Chandauli district on Monday. Police say a former Army personnel and Punjab native, who appeared to be a mentally disturbed, is behind all three murders.

The accused, Gurpreet Singh, 45, was apprehended by an auto driver while trying to flee after allegedly killing a woman admitted to a private hospital on Monday morning.

During interrogation, Singh reportedly confessed that he had also killed two train passengers — at 7.30pm on Sunday and 1.40am on Monday. The hospital killing was at 6.30am.

▶ '2 unprovoked', P 10

Tomato most-wasted crop in K'taka: Study

Sandeep.Moudgal
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Among all crops produced in Karnataka, tomatoes account for the highest post-harvest losses, with nearly 10% of the state's output going to waste amid inadequate cold storage facilities and seasonal market oversupply, a recent study has revealed. The state recorded the fifth highest post-harvest losses in this kitchen staple in the country.

Highest tomato wastage in India was recorded in Odisha with 13.2%, followed by Andhra Pradesh with 12.4%, Madhya Pradesh with 11.9% and Gujarat with nearly 11%.

LOST IN TRANSITION

Produce	Post-harvest loss (of total produce)
Tomato	9.9%
Marine Fish	8.9%
Onion	8.7%
Black Pepper	1.3%
Safflower	3.1%
Cashewnut	3.1%

According to a recent study by Nabard Consultancy Services (NABCONS), Karnataka lost close to 22 lakh tonnes of tomatoes in 2025-26.

▶Experts cite oversupply, P 5

Father clears Class 12 exam with daughter

Biswendu Bhattacharjee | TNN

Agartala: Dudhu Miah, a matriculate govt schoolteacher, lost his job in March 2020 during a high court-ordered scrutiny of 10,000-odd recruitments across rural Tripura. This week, he reclaimed his pride and dignity by clearing the Class 12 board exam — an achievement made sweeter by the fact that his daughter Ruma Akter was the other successful candidate in the family.

Dudhu had taught for over a decade since passing Madhyamik, the state high school board exam, before a 2014 controversy involving the selection process for schoolteachers put him under the scanner. The termination came six years later when Supreme Court dismissed a batch of petitions challenging the HC order. Dudhu worked as a daily-wage labourer and started a small business to support his family and ensure that Ruma didn't have to drop out of school.

Dudhu Miah with daughter Ruma

▶ 'Studied together,' P 9

After Covid-19, another virus is making news. Should you worry?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A little over six and a half years ago, the world heard about coronavirus, a novel virus called SARS-CoV-2. A 55-year-old man died in Wuhan, in China's Hubei province. The virus was novel, but it was still very much just a China story. Till — very soon — it was not. The virus, in just months, managed to bring the whole world down to its knees.

And now, with memories of Covid-19 still fresh in everyone's mind, there is a global alarm after a deadly hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship.

Getty Images

Passengers from MV Hondius being transferred to the port of Granadilla de Abona in Spain on Sunday

TOI Explains

'THERE IS NO REASON FOR PANIC IN INDIA'

"Indian hospitals are well-prepared after Covid-19, and respiratory virus panels can quickly detect hantavirus. Since aerosol transmission is now recognised as possible, use of N-95 masks and PPE becomes important for healthcare workers

—Dr N K Ganguly | chairperson, department of biotechnology and research, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

"Unlike Covid-19, this is not a highly contagious infection, and there is no reason for panic in India, where cases remain extremely rare. Preventive measures should focus on rodent control, wet cleaning instead of dry sweeping, and disinfection of surfaces

—Dr G C Khilnani | chairman, Institute of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, PSRI Hospital; former head of Pulmonary Medicine, AIIMS, Delhi

What Happened?

A ship — MV Hondius — with 114 passengers and 61 crew members set sail from Ushuaia in Argentina on April 1. This was meant to be a 35-day 'Atlantic Odyssey' voyage following a route through South Atlantic islands towards West Africa. But then, there was a hantavirus outbreak on this cruise. A Dutch passenger died on the ship on April 11. His wife later disembarked at Saint Helena and died in a Johannesburg hospital on April 26. A third passenger died on board on May 2. Several others also fell ill with the rare Andes strain, which can spread between humans in close contact.

Infected or exposed passengers were flown home on emergency repatriation flights from Tenerife to Britain, the US and elsewhere. Authorities are now tracing fellow airline passengers and quarantining evacuees for up to six weeks after at least one American tested positive.

What Is Hantavirus?

Hantavirus is not a single virus but a family of viruses carried mainly by rodents such as rats and mice. Humans can become infected after coming into contact with rodent urine, droppings or saliva.

The disease was first identified in the 1950s during the Korean War, but it gained wider attention in 1993 after an outbreak in the US killed many young adults.

Different strains exist in different parts of the world. In the Americas, hantavirus can cause a severe lung infection called Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS). In Europe and Asia, some strains affect the kidneys more than the lungs.

How Does It Spread?

Most people catch hantavirus by breathing in tiny virus particles stirred up from dried rodent waste. This can happen while cleaning storerooms, barns, attics, sheds or poorly ventilated spaces where rodents have lived. Less commonly, infection can happen through:

- Touching contaminated surfaces and then touching the mouth or nose
- Rodent bites
- Eating contaminated food

Human-to-human spread is extremely rare. However, the Andes strain found in South America — the strain linked to the cruise ship outbreak — is unusual because it can spread between people through close contact. This is one reason the latest outbreak attracted so much attention.

HOW HANTAVIRUS CAN SPREAD TO HUMANS

1. The virus is often carried by rodents
2. Particles from infected droppings and urine can become airborne
3. Infection occurs when those particles are inhaled
4. It can cause two severe illnesses that can lead to:
   - **Respiratory issues and lung damage**
   - **Internal bleeding and kidney failure**

CDC reported **890 cases of hantavirus** in the US since surveillance began in 1993

In 2023, **28 EU/EEA countries reported 1,885 cases** of hantavirus

What Are The Symptoms?

Symptoms usually appear 1-6 weeks after exposure. Early symptoms resemble flu: fever, headaches, muscle aches, fatigue, nausea or vomiting. In serious cases, breathing becomes difficult. Treatment involves hospital care, including oxygen and ventilation if needed.

How Deadly Is It?

Hantavirus can be serious. Some forms, especially HPS in the Americas, have high fatality rates. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), roughly one in three patients with severe lung disease may die.

But experts stress an important point: hantavirus infections are rare. Cases are tiny compared with diseases such as influenza, dengue or Covid-19.

Should People In India Be Worried?

At the moment, there is no sign of a hantavirus outbreak in India linked to the cruise ship incident.

Experts say the average person does not need to panic. Hantavirus is far less contagious than Covid-19. Large community outbreaks are uncommon.

Basic precautions are usually enough:

- Keep homes and food storage areas rodent-free
- Avoid sweeping dry rodent droppings, which can send virus particles into the air

Public health experts say that caution is reasonable — but panic is not.

The current hantavirus outbreak is serious for those affected, but it is not viewed as the start of another Covid-style global pandemic.

The Great Indian Crime Illusion

When it comes to data on crime, what appears to be true at first glance is often not true or not the complete truth. Here are 10 examples

More women go missing than children

In 2024, 5.2 lakh people were newly reported missing. 'Adult women' alone accounted for 3.5 lakh — 68% of all newly missing persons and 3.6 times the number of missing children. The number of child missing is serious, but the women's number is the bigger hidden mass.

Crimes against members of STs down? Yes, and no

Crimes/atrocities against members of the Scheduled Tribes fell from 13k in 2023 to 10k in 2024, a 23% fall, according to NCRB. But Manipur alone fell from 3.4k to under 300. Excluding Manipur, atrocities against the community actually rose slightly. A national fall in ST atrocities can be misread as broad improvement. But it's just the unwinding of a case spike in Manipur in 2023.

82 lakh distress calls, only 71k FIRs

The big headline out of the latest NCRB report might be "crime fell 6%". But scratch the surface, and what do you see? India's police received 1.94 crore complaint inputs, but only 30.3% became FIRs. Distress calls over phone/Dial 100 have the sharpest gap: 82.1 lakh distress calls produced only 71,323 FIRs — less than 1%. Suo motu police complaints, in contrast, almost always became FIRs: 12.2 lakh complaints, 11.98 lakh FIRs.

Part IPC + part BNS = Confusion

2024 is the first hybrid IPC/BNS year. Some offences are not comparable. "Hurt" fell from 6.37 lakh to 4.42 lakh, but simple hurt is now treated differently. Meanwhile, wrongful restraint/confinement rose 56% to 50,881. Deaths due to medical negligence jumped from 114 to 869 — a 7.6x increase — which looks less like a sudden healthcare collapse and more like a classification/reporting story that needs state-wise drilling.

BNS provisions that cops used

The NCRB 2024 report gives the first real enforcement baseline for new BNS offences. In half a year of BNS operation, police registered 1,325 cases of "sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means", 840 organised crime cases, 876 petty organised crime cases, and 24 terrorist-act cases under BNS.

5x more missing than those abducted

There are far fewer kidnapping/abduction cases than missing person FIRs: 98,054 against 5.2 lakh. These are not the same thing, and missing persons should not be treated as crime victims automatically. But operationally, police and families face a search problem more than five times larger than the kidnapping data suggests.

In Manipur, if something's lost, it's never found

In 2024, property worth Rs 5,924 crore was stolen and Rs 2,074 crore recovered — a 35% recovery rate. Maharashtra had Rs 1,098 crore stolen and Rs 342 crore recovered. Delhi had Rs 671 crore stolen and only Rs 105 crore recovered, a 15.6% recovery rate. Manipur is an outlier: Rs 222.9 crore stolen, Rs 0.6 crore recovered — 0.3%.

One crime, but the reasons are many

The data for purpose of trafficking shows Maharashtra and Telangana dominated, for sexual exploitation for prostitution: 829 and 770 persons respectively. Rajasthan is heavily forced-labour-linked: 273 forced labour out of 333 total persons trafficked. Odisha is the puzzle: 971 total persons, but 789 listed under "other reasons", not the usual trafficking buckets.

81% cybercrime cases in just 6 states

India registered 1,01,928 cybercrime cases. Telangana and Karnataka alone account for about 48% of them. Add UP, Maharashtra, Bihar and Tamil Nadu, and the top six states account for about 81%. But the two leaders also have weak charge-sheeting: Telangana 6.9%, Karnataka 10.3%, below the national cyber charge-sheeting rate of 14.3%.

Guess where cops have highest cases against them

NCRB lists 6,269 cases registered against state police personnel in 2024. Chandigarh alone accounts for 4,069. That is far above Maharashtra's 321, Jammu & Kashmir's 479, Rajasthan's 187, Telangana's 132 or Kerala's 130. This is either a major accountability story, a reporting/classification anomaly, or both.